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A-League Round 21 Friday 28th February - Sunday 2nd March 2014

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Up For The FFA Cup!

1. What is the FFA Cup?
The FFA Cup is a national knockout tournament run by FFA in conjunction with the State and Territory Member Federations in Queensland, NSW, Northern NSW, Victoria, ACT, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.
Each and every cup tie must be decided on the day, with extra time and penalties to decide results of matches drawn after 90 minutes.
Over 600 clubs will play in the feeder competitions run by the states and territories.
The Hyundai A-League clubs join the competition in the Round of 32, alongside 22 clubs who have progressed from the ranks of the semi-professional and amateur tiers.
The 2014 FFA Cup final will be played on Tuesday 16 December.

2. How are the slots for the Round of 32 decided?
Each state and territory is allocated a number of places in the Round of 32, based on the number of registered players in each jurisdiction. Each state and territory decides the qualification route. For example, in some states, this will be the winner of the state-based knock out cup. In other states, all semi-finallists will qualify.

The final allocation for the Round of 32 comprises:
a) Twenty-two (22) Member Federation Clubs comprising:
Football NSW – 7 Clubs
Football Federation Victoria – 4 Clubs
Football Queensland – 4 Clubs
Football West – 2 Clubs
NNSW Football – 2 Clubs
Capital Football – 1 Club
Football Federation SA – 1 Club
Football Federation Tasmania – 1 Club
Northern Territory will participate in 2015 FFA Cup
b) All ten (10) Hyundai A-League Clubs.

3. How many FFA Cup matches will be broadcast live on Fox Sports?
There will be a minimum of 10 matches broadcast on Fox Sports. One (1) Round of 32 Match, two (2) Round of 16 Match, and all Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and the FFA Cup Final.
Fox Sports may elect to broadcast additional FFA Cup matches from the Round of 32.
The first FFA Cup match broadcast live on Fox Sports will be on the opening night on Tuesday 29 July 2014.
All broadcast matches will kick off at 7.30pm.

4. What are the Qualifying Tournament dates and formats for each State and Territory?
Capital Football
15 March 2014 – 2 April 2014
Single FFA Cup entrant
known on 2 April 2014

Football Federation South Australia
15 February 2014 – 31 May 2014
Single FFA Cup entrant
known on 31 May 2014

Football West
5 April 2014 – 19 July 2014
Two FFA Cup entrants
known on 2 June 2014

Football New South Wales
15 March 2014 – 6 July 2014
Seven FFA Cup entrants
known on 5 June 2014

Football Queensland
11 February 2014 – late July 2014
Four FFA Cup entrants known on 7 June 2014

Football Federation Victoria
1 March 2014 – 7 September 2014
Four FFA Cup entrants
known on 9 June 2014

Football Federation Tasmania
9 March 2014 – 10 June 2014
Single FFA Cup entrant
known on 10 June 2014

Northern New South Wales Football
Two FFA Cup entrants
known on 22 June 2014

5. What are the dates of the 2014 FFA Cup matches?
Round of 32
Tuesday 29 July 2014 *(4 Matches)*
Tuesday 5 August 2014 *(4 Matches)*
Tuesday 12 August 2014 *(4 Matches)*
Tuesday 19 August 2014 *(4 Matches)*

Round of 16
Tues 16 September 2014 *(4 Matches)*
Tues 23 September 2014 *(4 Matches)*

Quarter Finals
Tuesday 14 October 2014 *(2 Matches)*
Tuesday 28 October 2014 *(2 Matches)*

Semi Finals
Tuesday 11 November 2014 *(1 Match)*
Tuesday 25 November 2014 *(1 Match)*

Cup Final
Tuesday 16 December 2014

6. What are the Draw Principles for the FFA Cup Draw?
The Draw Principles aim to give grassroots clubs an even chance to be giant-killers against the elite of the Hyundai A-League. This is the essence of the FFA Cup.
Therefore, the Draw Principles seek to enable fixtures between A-League and semi-pro and amateur clubs throughout the draw.
In addition, the Draw Principles balance the vagaries of different season schedules between the professional tier (predominantly summer) and the non-professional tiers (predominantly winter).
Further, the Draw Principles take into account the impact of Hyundai A-League finals and Asian Champions League commitments.

For the live Round of 32 draw, there will be three (3) Pots from which the participating Clubs will be drawn as follows:
Pot A – the Hyundai A-League Clubs who finish in the Top 4 of the 2013/14 Season after the Final Series (i.e. make the Hyundai Semi-Finals).
Pot B – the Hyundai A-League Clubs who finish in the Bottom 6 of the 2013/14 Season after the Finals Series.
Pot C – the 22 qualified Member Federation Clubs.
Pot A will be drawn first until empty, the draw will then continue with Pot B drawn until empty and then Pot C drawn until all Clubs have been allocated a fixture.

From the Round of 16, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, Clubs will be allocated into one of two (2) pots for the Live Draws:
a) Pot A – Hyundai A-League Clubs
b) Pot B – Member Federation Clubs
Positions in the draw will be numbered. Clubs will then be allocated positions in number order as drawn (i.e. first Hyundai A-League Club will be in position 1).
Clubs will be drawn from Pot A until empty, and then Pot B until all Clubs have been allocated a fixture.

7. Why are Hyundai A-League Clubs seeded into the Round of 32?
Consideration has been given to season phasing and providing each Club with the best opportunity to compete at full strength.
This seeding for the Round of 32 provides Hyundai A-League Clubs with some certainty in order to plan pre-season schedules around FFA Cup matches. Appreciating this is a period when Hyundai A-League Clubs generally do not play competitive matches, it also ensures there is an equality of off-season across all 10 Hyundai A-League Clubs, as those Clubs who play later in the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League Finals Series are seeded into the later Round of 32 matches in order to maximise player availability during the traditional off-season.
The match schedule also avoids a Round 16 fixture clash for Hyundai A-League Clubs who may be participating in a AFC Asian Champions League Quarter Final on 17 September 2014, and provides a 3 week break and clear air in the lead up to the start of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League Season (on 10 October 2014).

8. Why does the FFA Cup draw produce a Semi-Final with at least one Member Federation Club?
The Draw Principles provide for at least one Member Federation Club to qualify for the 2014 FFA Cup Semi Finals. It is important that the FFA Cup is differentiated from existing competitions and provides a genuine opportunity for grassroots and NPL clubs to compete on the national stage.
Member Federation Club(s) that progress to the FFA Cup Semi-Finals will have earned their birth. In order for a Member Federation Club to qualify for the Semi Final of the FFA Cup, the Club would have already had to, firstly, qualify via their relevant State Cup and, secondly, win three FFA Cup Final Round Matches.

9. Why is Wellington Phoenix participating in the FFA Cup?
As a Club licensed by FFA to participate in the Hyundai A-League Club, Wellington Phoenix should be afforded the same opportunity as other Hyundai A-League Clubs to play in the FFA Cup. As a professional club, Wellington Phoenix is not able to play in New Zealand Football's Chatham Cup.
In accordance with FIFA Regulations, Wellington Phoenix's participation in the FFA Cup has been approved by FIFA, the AFC, the OFC and New Zealand Football. Wellington Phoenix will play all FFA Cup matches in Australia.

10. Will FFA cover the costs of travel for competing Clubs?
FFA will cover reasonable flights, ground transport and accommodation for a travelling party of 21 for each travelling Away Club.

11. Who retains the rights to ticket revenue?
The home Club will incur applicable venue hosting costs and receive all associated ticket revenue, excluding the FFA Cup Final which will be run by FFA.

12. How will the home Clubs be determined?
Where matches involve Member Federation Clubs only, the first drawn Club will be given hosting rights. Where matches involve a Member Federation Club and a Hyundai A-League Club, the Member Federation Club will be given the right to host. Where both Clubs involved are Hyundai A-League Clubs, the first drawn Club will have hosting rights.

13. Will suburban grounds be able to meet the FFA Cup Venue and Security Standards for broadcast matches?
FFA wants to embrace the unique atmosphere of cup competitions and play as many FFA Cup matches at suburban grounds as possible. However, each venue will need to meet appropriate Minimum Venue and Security Standards that will be in place for the FFA Cup.

14. Why are all matches scheduled to be played on a Tuesday night?
This creates a consistency for the viewer and fan to identify with Tuesday night as the night to watch the FFA Cup. Not all FFA Cup matches will necessarily be played on a Tuesday night. For player welfare reasons, matches may be rescheduled to Wednesday depending on the league fixtures of the participating Clubs.

15. Why is the 2014 FFA Cup Final not on a weekend?
This was not possible for 2014 given the busy 2014/15 Season Fixture due to the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2015 AFC Asian Cup. It is the intention for the FFA Cup Final for 2015 onwards to be on a weekend, to emphasise the importance of the FFA Cup Final within Australia's football calendar and consistent with national knockout competitions in other countries.

16. Where will the FFA Cup Final be played?
Similar to the Hyundai A-League Grand Final, the venue for the Cup Final will be determined in the interest of FFA, competing Clubs, their members and supporters.

17. Will the respective state Cups continue in 2015 onwards?
This is still to be determined and is a decision for each Member Federation. As each Member Federation will operate the FFA Cup Preliminary Rounds for 2015 onwards, the Preliminary Rounds may replace some existing State Cups or the State Cups may vary.

2014 FFA CUP GIVES GRASSROOTS THE CHANCE TO BE GIANT-KILLERS

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has confirmed the format of the inaugural FFA Cup in 2014, with draw principles that give grassroots clubs every chance to be giant-killers against the elite of the Hyundai A-League.

Preliminary matches involving over 600 clubs across Australia have commenced this month ahead of the national knock-out FFA Cup Round of 32 kicking off in late July.

That is the stage when the 10 Hyundai A-League clubs will join the 22 clubs who will have qualified from feeder cup competitions in eight states and territories – Queensland, NSW, Northern NSW, Victoria, ACT, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

A live Round of 32 draw will occur in late June this year and will see four Round of 32 matches in which Hyundai A-League clubs will be the away team against semi-professional or amateur clubs at suburban or regional venues.

The draw principles will ensure the "giant-killer" interest will run throughout the competition, with a minimum of one non Hyundai A-League club reaching the Semi-Finals stage, a minimum of three in the Quarter-Finals and a minimum of nine in the Round of 16.

At Monday's launch at the home of National Premier Leagues club Rockdale City Suns, FFA CEO David Gallop unveiled the FFA Cup trophy, an impressive piece of footballing silverware that will be up for grabs at the Cup Final on 16 December.

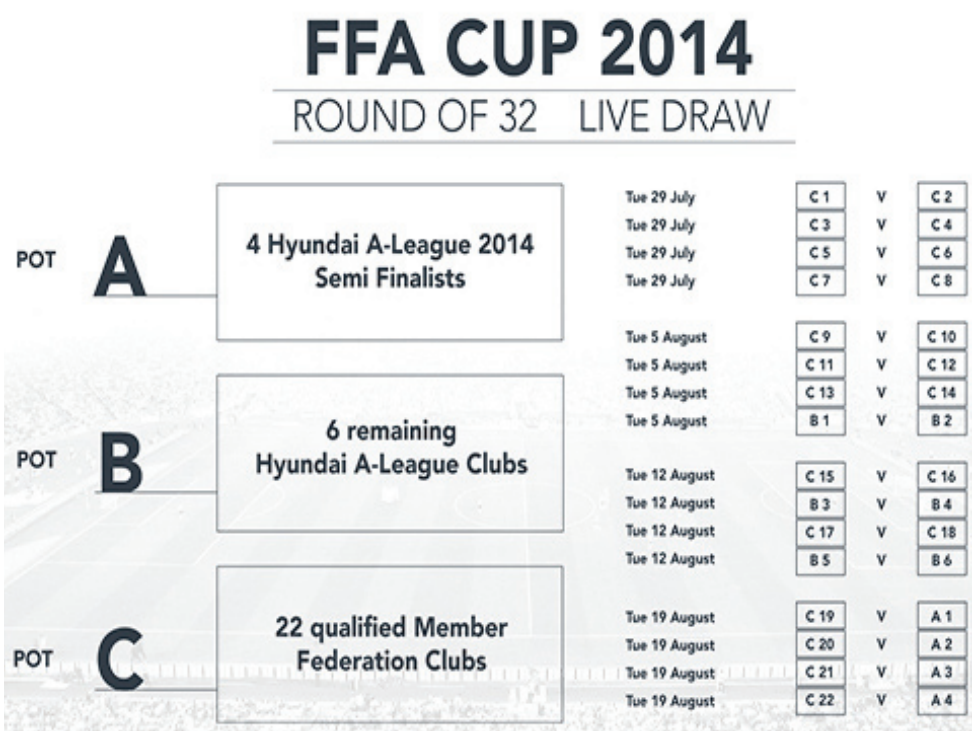
"The FFA Cup has taken on an almost mythical status among football fans who have longed for a national knock-out cup competition to fill a void in the football calendar," said Gallop.

"Today, the FFA Cup comes to life as a very tangible link between community football and the professional tier. It's a unique sporting link from the locals to the legends.

"We all grew up with the romance of the English FA Cup and well remember the history of upsets. I'm sure the FFA Cup will bring the same fascination to fans across Australia."

FFA also announced that Fox Sports has been appointed as the Official Broadcaster of the FFA Cup. The Fox Sports coverage will include a minimum of 10 matches from the Round of 32 onwards, including all Quarter-Finals, both Semi-Finals and the FFA Cup Final.

Former Socceroo Brett Emerton and FFA CEO David Gallop with the newly commissioned FFA Cup trophy at Monday's launch.



GOAL! WEEKLY

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Postecoglou takes first steps towards building a new "Golden Generation"

Ange Postecoglou has named a 23-man Socceroos squad to face Ecuador in London on 5 March that illustrates his determination to build a new Golden Generation of players as Australia looks to the 2014 FIFA World Cup and beyond.

The clash with Ecuador at The Den in London is the last match before Australia must name a provisional 30-man squad for the World Cup in mid-May and Postecoglou has handed a fresh group of players the opportunity to stake a claim for the World Cup.

The squad is reflective of Postecoglou's belief that he will select players showing strong club form with his recent scouting trip to Europe and the Middle East solidifying his belief that the next Golden Generation of players is ready to take the step into the National team in Brazil.

"The squad to face Ecuador represents the first steps in what I believe is the building of the next golden generation for Australian football acknowledging there is a need to balance experimentation and experience to achieve this," Postecoglou said.

"The Ecuador match gives this group of players an opportunity to stake a claim for the World Cup. They have been rewarded for playing consistent and strong football and shows that age and limited international experience are not barriers to opportunity.

"I was encouraged by what I saw on my scouting trip and what I've been watching in the A-League and other parts of the world and I'm confident that with courage and belief we can face the challenges ahead and not waver from our long term plan."

Postecoglou's squad contains four uncapped players, five plying their trade in the Hyundai A-League and three players brought back into the squad after missing the 1-0 win over Costa Rica last November.

Curtis Good (Dundee United), Chris Herd (Aston Villa), Massimo Luongo (Swindon Town) and Ben Halloran (Fortuna Dusseldorf) will all have the opportunity to make their Socceroo debut while Luke Wilkshire, Adam Sarota and Brad Jones will feature under Postecoglou for the first time

Mark Milligan (Melbourne Victory), Tom Rogic (Melbourne Victory), Matt McKay (Brisbane Roar), Ivan Franjic (Brisbane Roar) and Matthew Spiranovic (Western Sydney Wanderers) will all depart from Australia following this weekend's Hyundai A-League matches.

While the World Cup and beyond is a strong focal point for Postecoglou the Socceroos Head Coach also stressed the importance of the Ecuador match.

"Ecuador is a very important game for us," Postecoglou said. "It's the last game (before World Cup squad selection) and it's a quality opponent. Ecuador made the World Cup and it will be a tough challenge for us.

"We started our journey against Costa Rica and we want to build on that. It was a solid performance and the players backing up from that game would already have had a taste of what we are trying to achieve. For the new ones it's about getting as much information as possible.

"We've done a lot of work in between the Costa Rica game and now with analysis of our own performance and analysis of our opponents and they'll get a lot of information in those two or three days and I'm certainly looking for a strong performance against Ecuador so we continue to build on the positive feeling we had after the Costa Rica game."

While Postecoglou was true to his belief that players must be playing well and regularly at domestic level to win Socceroo selection, the same attitude has seen him leave the door open for a wave of players with dreams of representing the Socceroos at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

"Selection in the final squad for the World Cup is still very much an open door," Postecoglou said. "There were quite a few players, particularly those in Asia whose leagues are just beginning, who are still very much on the radar.

"There are also a few players who are very much a part of my thinking and plans for the World Cup who are not playing and I was pretty mindful of not calling anyone who was not going to play some significant game time.

"Their club form going forward will be a big indicator of that and players still have an opportunity to get back into the squad."

Match Details

Socceroos v Ecuador
The Den, London
Wednesday 5 March 8pm
kick off (7.00am AEDT)

Socceroo Squad

	Caps Goals
Oliver Bozanic	
FC Luzern (Switzerland)	*1 (0)*
Tim Cahill	
New York Red Bulls (USA)	*66 (29)*
Jason Davidson	
Heracles Almelo (Netherlands)	*4 (0)*
Ivan Franjic	
Brisbane Roar FC (Australia)	*6 (0)*
Curtis Good	
Dundee United FC (Scotland)	*0 (0)*
Ben Halloran	
Fortuna Dusseldorf (Germany)	*0 (0)*
Chris Herd	
Aston Villa FC (England)	*0 (0)*
James Holland	
Fk Austria Vienna (Austria)	*12 (0)*
Mile Jedinak	
Crystal Palace Fc (England)	*42 (3)*
Brad Jones	
Liverpool FC (England)	*3 (0)*
Mitchell Langerak	
Borussia Dortmund (Germany)	*2 (0)*
Matthew Leckie	
Fsv Frankfurt 1899 (Germany)	*5 (1)*
Massimo Luongo	
Swindon Town Fc(England)	*0 (0)*
Ryan Mcgowan	
Shandong (China Pr)	*8 (0)*
Mathew Mckay	
Brisbane Roar FC (Australia)	*45 (1)*
Mark Milligan	
Melbourne Victory (Australia)	*26 (2)*
Tommy Oar	
FC Utrecht (Netherlands)	*12 (1)*
Tommy Rogic	
Melbourne Victory (Australia)	*8 (0)*
Matt Ryan	
Club Brugge Kv (Belgium)	*4 (0)*
Adam Sarota	
FC Utrecht (Netherlands)	*3 (0)*
Matthew Spiranovic	
West Syd Wanderers (Australia)	*16 (0)*
Dario Vidosic	
FC Sion (Switzerland)	*19 (1)*
Luke Wilkshire	
FK Dinamo Moscow (Russia)	*79 (8)*

NPL 2014 Draw Released

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) has released the inaugural National Premier Leagues (NPL and NPL 1) 2014 fixtures.

Rivals Heidelberg United and South Melbourne will kick off the NPL season in a stand-alone fixture at Olympic Village on Thursday March 13, a night before Melbourne Knights hosts reigning Victorian Premier League (VPL) champion Northcote City in an opening round which stretches over four days.

Round 1 of NPL 1 will commence a day later on Saturday March 15, and conclude with two Monday night fixtures - Bulleen Lions v Moreland Zebras and Kingston City v Whittlesea Ranges.

Goulbourn Valley Suns begins its NPL campaign at home against Oakleigh Cannons on March 15 before hosting fellow regional club Ballarat Red Devils in Round 2.

The battle of the NPL's two regional clubs will be one of the highlights of Round 2, along with the VPL Grand Final replay between Northcote City and Bentleigh Greens.

In another highlight of the NPL 2014, two rounds (Rounds 5 and 20) will be played on a Wednesday night for the first time in the history of Victoria's premier football division.

NPL and NPL 1 will be played over 26 rounds and will conclude on September 14 and September 28 respectively.

The national NPL 2014 Finals Series will be staged between the weeks of:
September 20/21 – elimination finals
September 27/28 – semi-finals
October 4/5 – grand final

The NPL Premiers (first at the conclusion of the home and away season) of each Member Federation will qualify for the NPL Finals Series, with the Victorian NPL Premiers to meet the Tasmanian NPL Premiers in an away elimination final.

The winner of the NPL Finals Series will be crowned NPL Champions of Australia

NPL Round One

Heidelberg Utd vs Sth Melb FC
8:15 PM / Thu 13 Mar
Olympic Village
Port Melb Sharks vs Dandenong Thunder
8:30 PM / Fri 14 Mar
SS Anderson Reserve
Melb Knights vs Northcote City
8:30 PM / Fri 14 Mar
Knights Stadium
Green Gully vs Werribee City
3:00 PM / Sat 15 Mar
Green Gully Reserve
Bentleigh Greens vs Ballarat Red Devils
3:00 PM / Sat 15 Mar
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Goulburn Valley Suns v Oakleigh
3:00 PM / Sat 15 Mar
McEwan Reserve
Hume City vs Pascoe Vale
3:00 PM / Sun 16 Mar
Broadmeadows Valley

FFA and PFA join forces for Hyundai A-League Erase Racism Round

Football Federation Australia (FFA), the Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) and Australia's only national anti-racism charity, All Together Now, have joined forces in the fight against racism.

Widely regarded as Australia's most multicultural sport, the joint initiative will see Round 21 of the Hyundai A-League become 'Erase Racism Round'.

Matildas squad announced for Cyprus Cup

The Westfield Matildas squad for the upcoming Cyprus Cup has been announced ahead of Australia's AFC Asian Women's Cup defence in May.

The 23-strong squad, which will be captained by Kate Gill, includes two uncapped players; Newcastle Jets pair Gema Simon and Hannah Brewer.

The Westfield Matildas have been drawn alongside 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup semi-finalists France, fast-improving Scotland and the Netherlands; home nation of Westfield Matildas coach Hesterine de Reus.

Westfield Matildas met both the Netherlands and France on European soil last year losing 3-1 to the Dutch, before securing a famous 2-0 victory over Les Bleues.

Westfield Matildas are in Group B of the 12-nation annual event, considered one of the elite non-FIFA tournaments in women's football.

Group A features England, Italy, Finland and 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup hosts Canada. Group C includes Korea Republic, New Zealand, Switzerland and Republic of Ireland.

All teams will play group matches on March 5, 7 and 10, with play-offs for final positions held on March 12. The winners of Groups A and B will meet in the final.

Westfield Matildas coach Hesterine De Reus says the tournament will provide invaluable preparation for the AFC Asian Women's Cup.

"International football is always a higher level than the domestic leagues so it is a good opportunity for the girls to move from domestic to international football in terms of speed of the game and all-round demands," said De Reus.

"We will be facing strong opponents so it will be a tough test for us.

"We have a 23-player squad so we can give playing time to some other players and gain a better understanding of the depth we have in the squad, so there are any more positives from the tournament.

"But the most important thing is to get the players into international matches and into the level where we need to be. International matches are always important. So it is important to have three or four in a row.

"I think France and Holland will play quite similar, and Scotland I think will play with two strikers, so an opportunity to develop our playing style against a two or three striker system.

"We have many new players in camp which is exciting and it shows the W-League has been a good showcase for players to develop and are maybe they are now ready to step into the Matildas," concluded de Reus.

The Westfield Matildas are preparing for the 2014 AFC Women's Asian Cup in Vietnam, which double as FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers. Reigning champions Australia will be seeking to secure one of the five berths on offer for Canada 2015.

Cyprus Cup

March 5-12
Group B: Matildas, France, Scotland, Netherlands

Matildas Squad

Teigen Allen *(Western Sydney Wanderers)*, **Laura Alleway** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Nicola Bolger** *(Sydney FC)*, **Hannah Brewer** *(Newcastle Jets)*, **Tameka Butt** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Kim Carroll** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Stephanie Catley** *(Melbourne Victory)*, **Emma Checker** *(Melbourne Victory FC)*, **Brianna Davey** *(gk) (Melbourne Victory)*, **Casey Dumont** *(gk) (Sydney FC)*, **Caitlin Foord** *(Sydney FC)*, **Kathryn Gill** *(Perth Glory)*, **Katrina Gorry** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Michelle Heyman** *(Canberra United)*, **Elise Kellond-Knight** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Alanna Kennedy** *(Western Sydney Wanderers)*, **Sam Kerr** *(Sydney FC)*, **Leena Khamis** *(Sydney FC)*, **Chloe Logarzo** *(Sydney FC)*, **Hayley Raso** *(Brisbane Roar)*, **Gema Simon** *(Newcastle Jets)*, **Emily Van-Egmond** *(Western Sydney Wanderers)*, **Lydia Williams** *(gk) (Canberra United)*

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SCOREBOARD ROUND TWENTY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last 5 matches
1 Brisbane Roar	20	12	2	6	33	18	+15	38	L L D W W
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	20	9	7	4	25	19	+6	34	W D D W L
3 Melbourne Victory	20	8	6	6	30	32	-2	30	W W D L L
4 Sydney	20	9	1	10	27	28	-1	28	W W L L W
5 Adelaide United	20	7	6	7	33	28	+5	27	L W W L D
6 Central Coast Mariners	20	7	6	7	20	26	-6	27	L L L L W
7 Wellington Phoenix	20	7	5	8	30	29	+1	26	W L W W L
8 Newcastle Jets	20	6	5	9	20	27	-7	23	L W L D L
9 Perth Glory	20	5	6	9	19	24	-5	21	L L L D L
10 Melbourne Heart	20	5	6	9	24	30	-6	21	W W W W D

Melbourne Victory 4
(Finkler 15', 56', Thompson 66', Barbarouses 75')
Adelaide United 3
(Cirio 3', 45', 83')
Crowd: 18,341@ AAMI Park

Perth Glory 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 2
(Poljak 12m, Juric 71m)
Crowd: 8543 at nib Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 1
(Ibini 20)
Wellington Phoenix 4
(Cunningham 47, Hernandez 64, Huysegems 65, Brockie 77)

Newcastle Jets: 0
Sydney FC 2
(Ognenovski 60', Del Piero 73' (pen))
Crowd: 12,449 at Hunter Stadium

Melbourne Heart 1 (Engelaar 61')
Brisbane Roar 0
7,817@AAMI Park

THIS WEEK

Round 21	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Thu Feb 27	Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
Fri Feb 28	Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	Suncorp Stadium	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
Sat Mar 1	Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Mar 1	Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Mar 2	West Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets	Parramatta Stadium	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

NEXT WEEK

Round 22	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Mar 7	Melbourne Victory v Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Mar 8	Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Heart	Hunter Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Mar 8	Sydney FC v West Sydney Wanderers	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Mar 9	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	Westpac Stadium	5:00 PM	3:00 PM
Sun Mar 9	Brisbane Roar v Adelaide United	Suncorp Stadium	4:00 PM	5:00 PM

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Title 2013/14

Brisbane Roar	2.35
Wanderers	5.50
Melbourne Victory	6.00
Adelaide United	11.0
Sydney FC	13.0
Wellington Phoenix	13.0
Central Coast Mariners	11.0
Newcastle Jets	21.0
Melbourne Heart	26.0
Perth Glory	21.0

TOP GOAL SCORERS

S. Huysegems	Wellington	10
A. Taggart	Newcastle	9
J. Troisi	Mel Victory	9
D. Williams	Mel Heart	9
B. Berisha	Brisbane	8
A. Del Piero	Sydney	8
Guilherme	Mel Victory	7

6 Cirio (Adelaide Utd), R. Despotović (Sydney), C. Hernandez (Wellington), T. Jurić (Wanderers), Fábio Ferreira (Adelaide Utd), J. Neumann (Adelaide Utd), A. Thompson (Mel Victory)

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 20

Compiled by Nick Amies

Sergio Cirio was on song in front of goal with a well taken hat-trick for Adelaide but still ended up on the losing side. At least he made GW's TOTW. Photo: ANITA MILAS

A week that could have ruined one team's finals chances has suddenly opened up the title race instead as the Heart triumphed over the ladder leaders Brisbane Roar. The Mariners sustained their fourth loss in a row at home to Wellington, while the Wanderers drew closer to the Roar with a win away to Perth. Sydney FC picked up a vital win away from home in Newcastle, while a blockbuster clash between Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United delighted neutrals and contributed the bulk of our TOTW for the round.

Vedran Janjetovic – Sydney FC
Looking to add to their solitary home victory for the season the Jets were in ominous form, dominating possession and crafting the better chances. However, a late second half surge from the visiting Sky Blues saw them secure the points, with Janjetovic's constant denial of the likes of Adam Taggart, Craig Goodwin and James Virgili crucial in their efforts.

Jason Hoffman – Melbourne Heart
Thomas Broich has been regarded as the league's finest import and one of the Roar's standout players this season. His opponent, Jason Hoffman, was unperturbed by the prospect of facing the impressive German, locking down his corridor of the field and limiting Broich's influence to long range efforts.

Sasa Ogenovski – Sydney FC
Lucas Neill's struggle for a contract has put a fire under his competing defenders as they pursue a seat on the plane to Brazil, no more so than the Og-monster who has been colossal since returning to Australia for Sydney FC. He was once again in fine form against the Jets, repelling their strikers before rising highest to head home an ADP corner to score his side's first goal in a morale-boosting victory.

Patrick Kisnorbo – Melbourne Heart
Holding on to a slender one-goal lead with the clock winding down, the Heart were desperate to secure the points and continue their charge up the ladder. The result seemed to be in doubt though as Besart Berisha ghosted through the defence, finding himself one-on-one with Andrew Redmayne. The crowd saw the inevitable; Berisha had a knack for scoring late goals in dramatic fashion. Someone forgot to tell Patrick Kisnorbo however, the former Leeds man appearing as if from thin air to slide in and take the ball from the stunned Berisha to seal the win.

Reece Caira – Wellington Phoenix
Care of a mixture of injuries, suspensions and international call-ups Ernie Merrick has been forced to make the most of his squad this season. Reece Caira has been one of those ins and outs over the course of campaign, but a strong performance against the Mariners on Friday should put him in for more appearances as the season winds down. Strong in a defence and an outlet in attack, Caira played a role in his side's first goal as well as preventing a Mariners fightback at the other end.

Mark Milligan – Melbourne Victory
The Victory skipper has galvanised his teammates since returning to the fold and his partnership with Leigh Broxham in the middle of the park was crucial in securing the points. A game of breathtaking speed featured alternating periods of dominance, but ultimately Milligan's presence in front of the defence was crucial in ensuring his side could repel the visitors before launching their devastating counter attacks.

Terry Antonis - Sydney FC
Since returning to the Frank Farina's side Antonis has been the glue holding his midfield together, once again putting in a superb performance in the centre of the park. Despite not making a contribution to the scoresheet, Antonis was a vital link between attack and defence, exhibiting experience beyond his years to help lead his side to victory.

Gui Finkler – Melbourne Victory
Many are confused as to why Finkler wasn't included in the Victory's ACL squad and those questions will grow louder after Saturday's performance. The Brazilian was in brilliant touch, scoring a sublime first on the volley before scoring an opportunistic second to restore parity and set up his side's charge to victory and third place on the ladder.

Carlos Hernandez – Wellington Phoenix
King Carlos is back. The Costa Rican international is playing like a man possessed and driving the Phoenix towards the finals. His goal was of particular note, smashing the ball into the back of the net with minimal backlift past the stranded Liam Reddy, but his constant movement and incisive passing also wreaked havoc on the Mariners defence.

Stein Huysegems – Wellington Phoenix
The Belgian continued his prolific form with another goal, profiting from Kenny Cunningham's good work for a relatively simple finish inside the box. Huysegems then turned provider to close the game out, finding Jeremy Brockie with a perfectly timed pass for his side's fourth of the game. A constant menace and could have scored a couple more.

Sergio Cirio – Adelaide United
The outstanding player on a losing side, Cirio put in his best performance of the season to no avail against the Victory. Two well-taken goals in the opening and closing stages of the first half exhibited a true poacher's instinct, with his chip over Nathan Coe for the second also displaying wonderful finesse. The Spaniard was able to complete his hat-trick in the second half but it wasn't enough to keep his team in third place as they went down 4-3.

Heart keep the beat as Engelaar sinks leaders

Melbourne Heart 1

Brisbane Roar 0

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 1 (Engelaar 61')
Brisbane Roar 0
Attendance: 7,816 @ AAMI PArk
Referee: Adam Kersey

Melbourne Heart: 1. Andrew Redmayne (Gk), 4. Orlando Engelaar (21. Stefan Mauk 83'), 6. Patrick Gerhardt, 7. Iain Ramsay 19. (Benjamin Garrucio 89'), 8. Massimo Murdocca (C), 13. Jonatan Germano (22. Nicholas Kalmar 69'), 15. David Williams, 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman, 23. Mate Dugandzic, 24. Patrick Kisnorbo

Substitutes Not Used: 18. David Vrankovic, 20. Tando Velhapi (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Iain Ramsay 10', Massimo Murdocca 30', Partick Gerhardt 45+1', Aziz Behich 89'
Red Cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matthew Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 10. Henrique (23. Dimitri Petratos 76'), 11. Liam Miller (15. James Donachie 77'), 13. Jade North, 17. Matthew Mckay, 18. Luke Brattan (16 Jean Carlos Solorzano 86'), 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 14. Diogo Ferreira, 20. Matthew Acton (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Liam Miller 40', Shane Stefanutto 50'
Red Cards: Nil

By Chris Hearn

Melbourne Heart have lifted themselves to within touching distance of a finals spot after a gritty 1-0 win against Brisbane Roar at AAMI Park.

Orlando Engelaar's goal midway through the second half was a just reward as the leaders fluent style was rendered useless by the incessant Heart pressure.

The Roar were unusually poor in front of goal and look to be lacking their usual

The signs were clear early on. In the first 10 minutes, Heart's energetic midfield forced turnovers in their attacking half to springboard a quick attack. A cutting edge was lacking however.

The first chance of the match fell to Iain Ramsey. Mate Dugandzic's impressive burst and distribution from midfield found the 25-year old on the inside left channel, as he stung the palms of Michael Theo.

The Heart showed fantastic energy thereafter and made the Brisbane midfield accountable for sloppy play. Three times in the first nine minutes, turnovers were forced in their attacking half to springboard a quick attack.

Despite the early pressure, there would be no breakthrough as the Roar's defence coped well.

Massimo Murdocca was booked with a half an hour gone after persistent fouling, and Luke Brattan fired the resulting free-kick straight at Andrew Redmayne.

Neither side really got a serious foothold on this contest in the first half, with both teams defending at a good level and keeping a disciplined line.

It was a rather scrappy final 10 minutes to the half. The only events of note were cautions for Patrick Gerhardt and Liam Miller in separate incidents.

For all of Brisbane's success in attacking centrally this season, an over reliance on wing-play without sufficient options in the area was telling. They failed to create any decent chances in the opening period, and the home sides' struggles were of a similar nature.

1-0 Gentle Giant: Melbourne Heart's hero of the hour Orlando Engelaar kept his composure to steer the ball home.

Match Stats

25	Tackles	26
16	Total Shots	6
323	Total Passes	554
37.4%	Possession	62.6%
5	Corners	3
4	Offsides	0
20	Fouls committed	14

Man of the Match
Orlando Engelaar (Heart)

The Heart failed to drag the Brisbane back line out of shape, as they did so impressively against the Phoenix last week.

The first half saw the possession at 59-41% in favour of the Roar but the home side just shaded time in opposition territory with 53%.

After the break it was much of the same. Both sides battling away but lacking a final touch of class in the final third. The Heart faithful were pleased to see the Dutchman Engelaar start to exert his authority on the contest.

But Brisbane have not gone three games without a win in the A-League in over a year, last doing so in January 2013, so a response was inevitable.

Steffanuto's hopeful ball down the left wing on 50 minutes found McKay, but his effort at goal was cleared for a corner by the bullish Gerhardt. This was the first real opening of the period, and strangely enough, it seemed to spring John v'ant Schip's side into life.

Some textbook wing-play would be the tonic this game needed, and it saw them draw first blood on 61 minutes. Mate Dugandzic completely bamboozled Brattan on the right touchline with a lovely nutmeg, and the Heart forward clipped a pass to the unmarked Engelaar. The 34-year old slotted home into the centre of the net past the outstretched leg of Jade North on the goal line.

Their tales were up and the crows was applauding every sequence of cultured passing.

Minutes later, and after another clumsy turnover by the Roar midfield saw Engelaar feed Williams. He won the sprint to the ball against Jade North, but his shot on goal eventually blocked by the defender for a Heart corner.

After a goalmouth scramble on 72 minutes, Besart Berisha was penalised as he sat on the ball, an indirect free-kick was 8 yards would follow. Williams laid off to Engelaar but his shot was blocked.

As the game entered the final quarter, the Heart were pressing for a second goal that would kill the contest. The league leaders backs were now firmly against the wall.

Nicky Kalmar's introduction saw the home side gain more poise in midfield, and he almost turned provider as he teed up Dugandzic. The striker had time and space, but his strike, rather than find the back of the net, found row z.

A poor clearance found Stefan Mauk on 88 minutes and he laid off to Ramsey on the edge of the area. But is deflected strike was easily caught by Theo.

The home crowd grew increasingly nervous as each attack passed them by, desperation for the all-important goal grew.

They knew Brisbane had one more chance in them.

That chance fell to Besart Berisha in stoppage time. In his first positive contribution of note, he interchanged fantastically well with Thomas Broich and looked certain to score, before Patrick Kisnorbo produced a season-defining tackle on the Albanian.

Melbourne Heart would hold on for maximum points.

One sour note for the home side is the suspensions of Aziz Behich and Patrick Gerhardt, who will miss the Melbourne Derby on Saturday evening due to an accumulation of yellow cards.

Patrick Kisnorbo puts his body on the line to make a desperate game-saving tackle, just as Besart Berisha was about the pull the trigger, with only the keeper to beat.

Melbourne Heart players create a human pyramid on top of match-winner Orlando Englaar.

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Photos: BEN NEVILLE

One step forward, two steps back for Jets

Newcastle Jets 0

Sydney FC 2

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 0
Sydney FC 2 (Ognenovski 61', Del Piero 72'pen)
At Hunter Stadium
Crowd: 12,149
Referee: Strebre Delovski

Newcastle Jets: 1. Mark Birighitti (gk), 3. Taylor Regan, 6. Zenon Caravella, 8. Ruben Zadkovich (c), 9. Emile Heskey (29. Joel Griffiths 62'), 11. Craig Goodwin (23. David Carney 73'), 14. Josh Mitchell, 15.Josh Brillante, 17. James Virgili (7. Andrew Hoole 65'), 21.Sam Gallaway, 22. Adam Taggart

Substitutes not used: 20. Ben Kennedy (gk), 24. Mitchell Oxborrow
Yellow Cards: Gallaway 35', Birighitti 72', Zadkovich 90+3
Red Cards: nil

Sydney FC: 4. Ranko Despotovic, 5.Matthew Jurman, 6. Nikola Petkovic, 9. Corey Gameiro (11. Richard Garcia 57'), 10. Alessandro Del Piero (c), 13. Sasa Ognenovski, 17. Terry Antonis, 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk), 22. Ali Abbas, 24. Hagi Gligor (28. Matt Thompson 79'), 36. Themba Muata-Marlow (25. Daniel Petkovski 68')
Subs: 1. Ivan Necevski (gk), 29. Alex Urosevski
Yellow cards: nil
Red Cards: nil

By Shaun Dyas

As we have seen on many occasions, a week is indeed a long time in football.

The Newcastle Jets succumbed meekly to Sydney FC 2-0 in front of 12,149 fans at Hunter Stadium for their third straight loss to the sky blues this season.

This occurred after they were celebrating their own third straight win over the Brisbane Roar for the season.

Newcastle again showed their inability to break down an opponent who sits deep and breaks on the counter and have suffered a defeat that will almost certainly cruel their finals chances.

Jets coach Clayton Zane summed up the feeling after the game.

"We put pressure on them, but that pressure didn't really lead to chances," he said.

Sasa Ognenovski and Alessandro Del Piero were the men who made the home side pay.

The towering defender crashed home an imposing header from a Del Piero corner in the 61st minute.

It was a moment that keeper Mark Birighitti and striker Emile Heskey won't look back upon too fondly.

Birighitti appeared to only half commit to the corner and Heskey seemed to leave the ball for the keeper. This hesitation was just enough for the man affectionately known as the 'Og monster' to power home.

The wily Italian then earned a penalty in the 72nd minute after a mistimed challenge from Jets defender Taylor Regan, who had one of his poorer outings for the season.

Del Piero stepped up and easily slotted the ball past Birighitti from the spot, sending the Newcastle custodian the wrong way in the process.

Earlier, only a few chances were created in a largely lifeless first half. Adam Taggart and James Virgili had half chances for the hosts as the Jets dominated possession without creating much of note.

The best chance came for Sydney's Serbian Striker Ranko Despotovic. The Jets turned over possession in midfield to Italian star Del Piero, who threaded the ball through for Despotovic.

Mark Birighitti was on hand to deny the lumbering striker, smothering a well hit shot that went straight at the keeper and away to safety.

Newcastle came out fired up after the break and enjoyed their most positive period of the match and had countless opportunities to take what would have been a deserved lead.

The best of these chances came in the 51st minute when Adam Taggart and skipper Ruben Zadkovich combined.

Zadkovich received the ball in midfield and played a quick and incisive one-two with the striker which found him in space on the edge of the box.

Zadkovich wasted no time as he drilled a shot low and hard at goal, only to see Sydney keeper Vedran Janjetovic fumble the first shot.

Janjetovic did well to recover just in time and recover the rebound as Taggart looked set to finish off the crumbs.

Newcastle became increasingly frantic after the Sydney goals as they tried to force their way through the Sydney defence and back into the contest.

It appeared though that the Jets were looking to do it by themselves rather than as a unit.

This could be a symptom of the fact that they are still trying to adapt to the style that new coach Clayton Zane is trying to implement.

They had better adapt quickly, or they will be watching the finals series from the sidelines for the third straight season.

Newcastle next faces the challenge of the Western Sydney Wanderers at Pirtek Stadium.

Sydney, on the back of two straight wins for the first time in months; face an underperforming Central Coast Mariners side in Gosford.

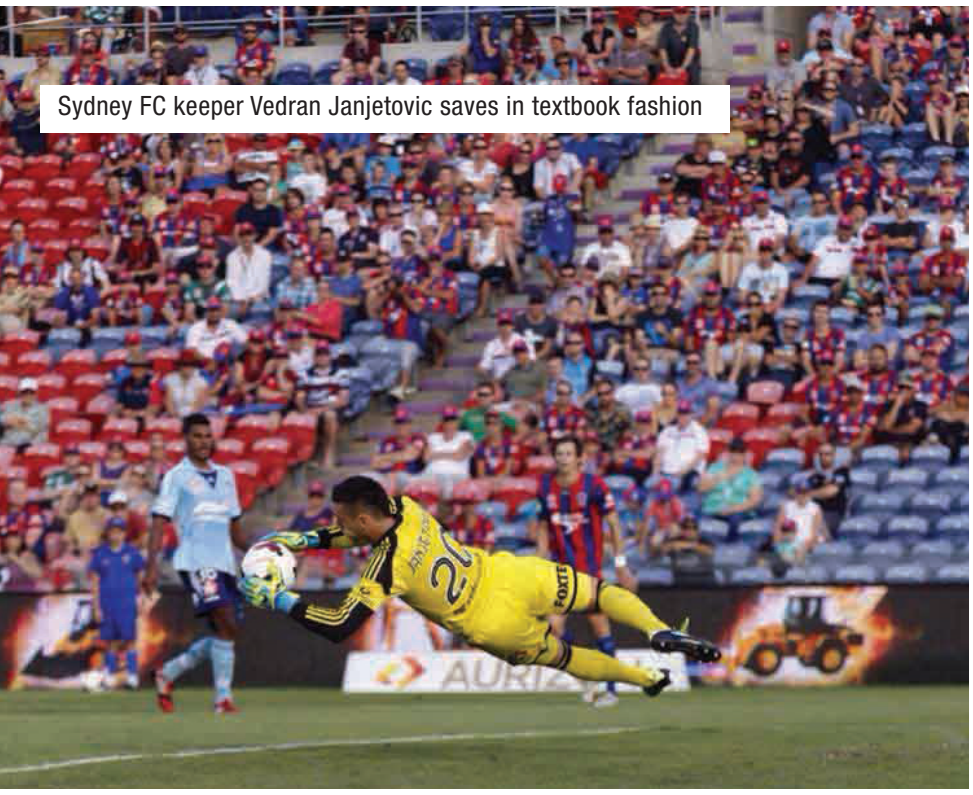
With the Mariners recent form, coupled with their Asian Champions League commitments, Sydney must fancy their chances.

Sydney FC's new Socceroo signing Sash Ognenovski times his header to perfection and powers home from the corner.

Match Stats

9	Tackles	25
12	Total Shots	13
441	Total Passes	344
55.3%	Possession	44.1%
10	Corners	5
0	Offsides	2
13	Fouls committed	10

Man of the Match
Alessandro Del Piero (SFC)


Sydney FC keeper Vedran Janjetovic saves in textbook fashion

Sydney FC put their recent troubles behind them to record back-to-back victories.

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Worst. Slump. Ever.

Central Coast

1

Wellington Phoenix

4

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 1 (Ibini 20')
Wellington Phoenix 4 (Cunningham 47', Hernandez 63', Huysegems 64', Brockie 81')
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Alan Milliner

Central Coast Mariners Fc: 12. Liam Reddy (Gk), 5. Zachary Anderson, 7. John Hutchinson (C), 8. Nick Montgomery (28. Glen Trifiro 86'), 9. Mitchell Duke, 15. Storm Roux, 20. Bernie Ibini (22. Tom Slater 86'), 21. Mile Sterjovski, 25. Eddy Bosnar, 26. Kim Seung-Yong (17. Anthony Caceres 71), 29. Matt Sim

Substitute Not Used: 1. JusTin Pasfield (Gk), 4. Marcel Seip
Yellow Cards: Ibini, Sim, Anderson
Red Cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix Fc: 1. Glen Moss (Gk), 2. Emmanuel Muscat, 3. Reece Caira, 5. Michael Boxall, 9. Kenny Cunningham (23. Matthew Ridenton 78'), 10. Stein Huysegems, 12. Tyler Boyd (24. Roy Krishna 87'), 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 21. Carlos Hernandez (11. Jeremy Brockie 78'), 22. Andrew Durante

Substitutes Not Used: 6. Joshua Brindell-South, 20. Lewis Italiano (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Cunningham
Red Cards: Nil

By Adrian Deans

I won't criticise Mossy. I won't criticise the players. I won't criticise the club.

But this is the worst slump ever for the Mariners. For all I know they may have lost more sequential games, at some point in the distant past, but never have they played in such an abject defeated fashion. The Mariners have problems, but those problems are perfectly understandable. The team has been torn apart, yet again, in an effort to survive – and the remaining players are like rabbits in the spotlight – transfixed by the oncoming semi-trailer, game after game after game.

Injuries and suspension reduced the available players even further with Nick Fitzgerald, Matt Simon, Josh Rose and Brent Griffiths unavailable. And yet, with a slice of luck it might have been so different. The Mariners scored first and played the better football in the first half. Bernie Ibini broke down the left, cut inside and caressed his shot inside the far post. He's a dangerous player, Ibini – one of the few genuine creators in the final third – and I wouldn't be surprised to see him a bolter for Brazil (or at least for the Allstars team to take on Juventus).

The second half was different. The Phoenix scored very quickly when the ball broke to Kenny Cunningham on the edge of the box – he picked his spot and whacked it past Reddy whose weight was all going the other way.

Soon afterwards, the Mariners should have been back in front. A bizarre penalty was given when Andrew Durante handled the ball while objecting to a purported Mariners foul. Mile Sterjovski, who had looked so assured with the Mariners' last penalty, hit a tame effort to Glen Moss's right and Moss fulfilled his part of the bargain by tipping it away for a corner.

Almost immediately afterwards, Carlos Hernandez received the ball with his back to goal, turned, and clipped a superbly dipping shot in off the underside of the bar. And before the Mariners could even take a breath and regroup, they were 3 – 1 down after giving the ball away and failing to clear the danger despite several opportunities to do so. Cunningham fought his way through the heart of the Mariners defence and Stein Huysegems couldn't miss – all by himself on the far post.

As I've said several times since Trent Sainsbury moved to Holland, he was too obviously papering over the cracks with his amazing pace, technique and game-reading ability. The Mariners – so frequently prevailing in recent years due to their wonderful defensive system – no longer have the players who get the system. Zac Anderson was great with Sainsbury at his side, but hasn't gelled with Eddie Bosnar, and suddenly Reddy is more exposed than Penthouse's Greatest Hits.

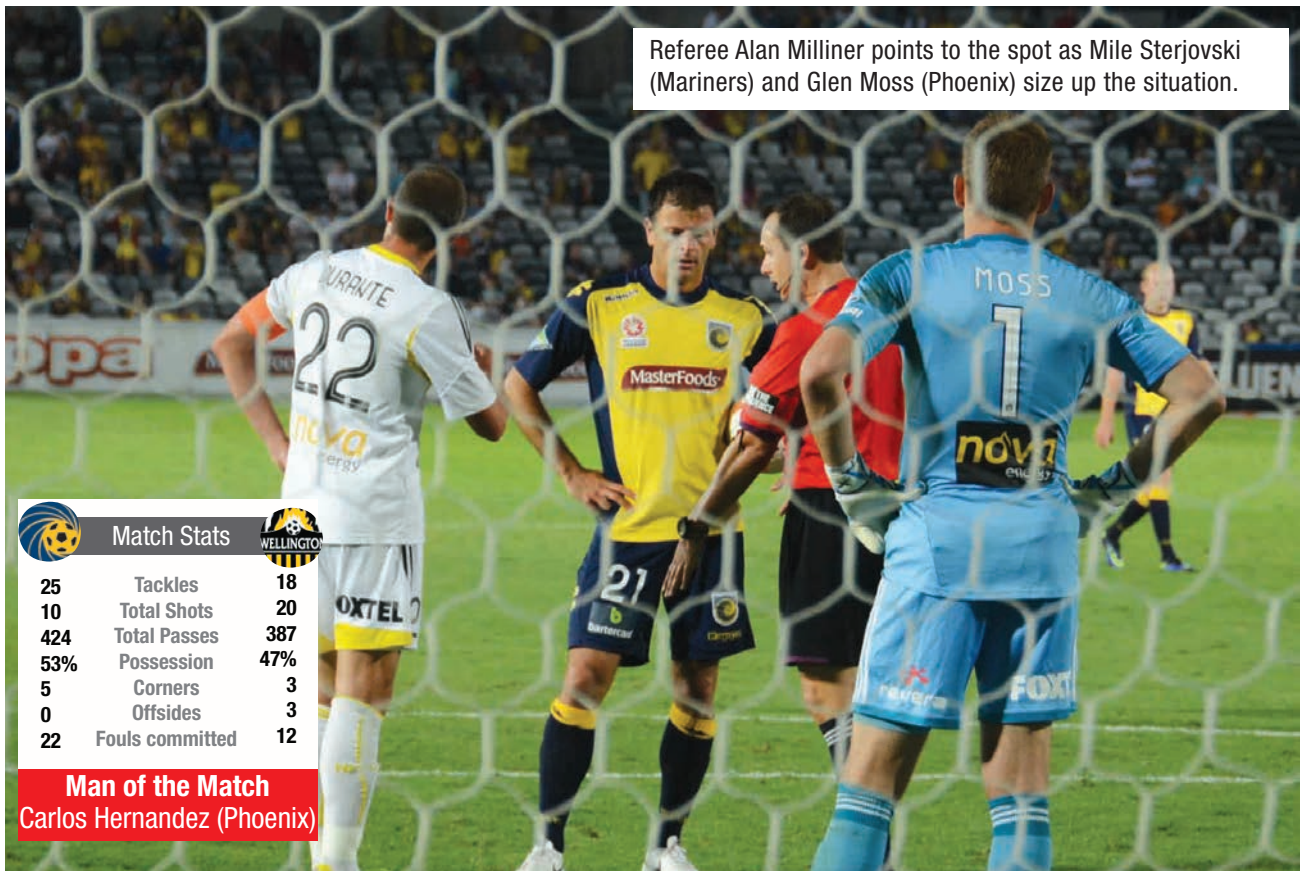
The Mariners stopped playing after that. The Phoenix still had time to add a fourth as the Mariners collapsed in a style completely alien to the teams built by Lawrie McKinna and Graham Arnold. That sounds unfair to Mossy and it probably is. I've no doubt he would have preferred to keep the likes of Sainsbury, McBreen, Flores (injured) and co, but the Mariners, to survive, have to sell. And have no choice but to indulge the ambitions of their better players.

The Phoenix are on a roll and (despite losing 5 – 0 just the week before) are looking good for the finals. The Mariners, in contrast, are hanging on by the fingertips and need a miracle to stay in the six.

They have the cattle, on paper, to manage it but with so many new players will have to cram a whole pre-season into a couple of weeks to find the requisite understanding.

Meanwhile, the fans will have to be patient. The Mariners have a long tradition of success almost unrivalled in such a tight salary-capped league, and the fans need to remember that before deserting the team that has served them so well for nine seasons.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adriandeans.com



Referee Alan Milliner points to the spot as Mile Sterjovski (Mariners) and Glen Moss (Phoenix) size up the situation.

Match Stats		
25	Tackles	18
10	Total Shots	20
424	Total Passes	387
53%	Possession	47%
5	Corners	3
0	Offsides	3
22	Fouls committed	12

Man of the Match
Carlos Hernandez (Phoenix)

Phoenix keeper Glen Moss parries Mile Sterjovski's penalty kick around the post to keep the scores at 1-1.

1-0 The Mariners celebrate after Bernie Ibini opened the

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Photos: GREG SEATON

Wanderers take Glory and close gap on Leaders

Perth Glory

0

Western Sydney

2

Match Details

Perth Glory 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 2
(Poljak 12', Juric 71')
Nib Stadium
Saturday 22nd February 2013
Attendance: 8,543
Referee: Shaun Evans

Perth Glory: Gk Daniel Vukovic, 5 Rostyn Griffiths, 8 Nebojsa Marinkovic (20 Danny De Silva 79'), 9 Shane Smeltz, 14 Steven Mcgarry (7 Jacob Burns 46'), 16 Sidnei Sciola Moraes, 17 Chris Harold (28 Darvydas Sernas 46'), 19 Josh Risdon, 23 Michael Thwaite, 25 Riley Woodcock, 36 William Gallas

Subs Not Used: Rgk Jack Duncan, 2 Jack Clisby
Yellow Cards – Thwaite 57', Smeltz 72'

Western Sydney Wanderers: Gk Jarrad Tyson, 2 Shannon Cole, 3 Adam D'apuzzo, 4 Nikolai Toper-Stanley, 7 Labinot Haliti (22 Dean Heffernan 82'), 8 Mateo Poljak, 10 Aaron Mooy, 11 Brendon Santalab (9 Tomi Juric 46'), 13 Matthew Spiranovic, 14 Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (17 Youssouf Hersi 67'), 18 Iacopo La Rocca

Subs Not Used: Rgk Thomas Manos, 23 Jason Trifiro
Yellow Cards – Poljak 41', Spiranovic 74', Tyson 85'

1-0 Mateo Poljak gives thanks above after his strike left the Glory players looking around for answers.

Match Stats

19	Tackles	19
14	Total Shots	10
500	Total Passes	255
65.1%	Possession	34.6%
10	Corners	4
2	Offsides	0
17	Fouls committed	16

Man of the Match
Aaron Mooy (Wanderers)

By Peter Simcox

Western Sydney Wanderers closed the gap on leaders Brisbane Roar, after a 2-0 win against Perth Glory in the round 20 Hyundai A-League clash at nib Stadium on Saturday evening.

The defeat has also put Glory's top six chances in real threat, and it's now no wins in six games for the side from the west.

Despite the home side having 60% of possession, a first half goal from Mateo Poljak, was followed by a second from substitute Tomi Juric after the break. The latter coming after a huge blunder from the usually reliable William Gallas, the Wanderers leaving with the points, and spoiling the party for Danny Vukovic who was playing his 200th A-League game. Wanderers coach Tony Popovic said he was pleased to leave Perth with the points, but felt his team's dominant performance could have been more polished.

"In the second half we probably gave away too much possession and gave them a chance to get back in the game," Popovic said.

"Jerrad (Tyson) made a fine save off a corner and just after that we go and make it 2-0 but that all came from us losing the ball when we had good possession and that's something we can improve on."

Glory interim Coach Kenny Lowe made just the one change from last week's starting line-up against Sydney FC, with Chris Harold coming into the side with Darvydas Sernas dropping to the bench. The visitors however, who had the week off last week, made five changes to their side that drew with Brisbane Roar in round 18. Jarrad Tyson replaced the injured Ante Covic in goal, while, Labinot Haliti and Iacopo La Rocca replaced the injured Mark Bridge and Shinji Ono. Shannon Cole replaced the suspended Jerome Polenz, and Kwabena Appiah-Kubi came in for Youssouf Hersi, who dropped to the bench.

The Glory opened brightly and went close after only eight minutes. Nebojsa Marinkovic's free kick on the left was headed just wide of the target by Wanderers defender Poljak. But despite dominating the early possession, it was the visitors who hit the front on 12 minutes. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi picked out Poljak on the edge of the penalty area and the midfielder wasn't closed down, and he finished clinically, low past Vukovic.

The home side looked to hit back immediately; Sidnei's cross to the back post was headed wide by Shane Smeltz, then moments later a quickly taken corner by Sidnei found Marinkovic, and caught the Wanderers napping, but the Serbian's shot from the edge of the box flashed over the top.

The Glory were struggling in the final third, but they continued to press and on the half hour almost levelled. Gallas found Riley Woodcock on the left, whose first time ball sent Sidnei racing clear, his cross into the penalty area was only inches away from Harold at the back post. The visitors ended the half the better and almost doubled their lead. Socceroo midfielder Aaron Mooy sent a defence splitting through ball to Labinot Haliti, but the striker fired straight at Vukovic.

The Glory made a double change at the break, bringing on club skipper Jacob Burns for Steven McGarry, while Lithuanian striker Sernas came on for Harold. It was an even start to the second half, but still the Glory couldn't turn their possession into chances. The Wanderers wasted a couple of chances on the hour mark, Haliti's low shot drifted wide after good approach work from Appiah-Kubi, before Poljak long-range shot whistled just over the top.

Marinkovic's curling free kick tested Tyson on the hour, but seven minutes later the Glory had their best chance of the evening. Marinkovic's corner picked out Rostyn Griffiths whose header was well saved by Tyson on the line. The Glory fans were now right behind their side as a comeback looked on the cards, but three minutes later disaster struck. There looked little danger when the ball was played back to Gallas, but the French defender made a horrendous mistake, letting in Juric, who rounded Vukovic and fired home from a tight angle.

Another curling free kick from Marinkovic flashed inches past the post, but that was his last contribution, replaced by Daneil De Silva. The Australian under-20 midfielder was straight into the action as the Glory pressed to get back into the game. He picked out Sidnei down the left, who found Michael Thwaite in the middle of the park, the defenders long-range shot was tipped over the bar by Tyson.

From the resulting corner, even Vukovic made his way into the penalty area, and when the ball came in, the keepers' spectacular overhead kick, went just the wrong side of the post. The Glory continued to press and in the final minute a cheeky back heel from De Silva set up Josh Risdon, whose long-range shot was well saved by Tyson.

Wanderers keeper Jarrad Tyson foils Perth Glory's Shane Smeltz.

2-0 Wanderer Tomi Juric eludes the outstretched hand of Glory's Danny Vukovic to make the most of William Gallas' slip-up in defence.

Victory edge Reds in classic seven goal thriller

Melbourne Victory 4

Adelaide United 3

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 4
(Finkler 15', 56', Thompson 66', Barbarouses 75')
Adelaide United 3
(Cirio 3', 45', 83')
Crowd: 18,341@ AAMI Park

Melbourne Victory: 1.Nathan Coe, 2.Pablo Conteras, 3.Adama Traore, 4.Nick Ansell, 24.Scott Galloway, 5.Mark Milligan, 6.Leigh Broxham, 7.Gui Finkler, 14. James Troisi (22. Jesse Makarounas), 10.Archie Thompson (13.Andrew Nabbout), 21.Tomas Rogic (9.Kostas Barbarouses) .

Yellow Cards: Coe, Conteras, ANsell, Galloway
Red Cards: None:

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic, 21.Tarek Elrich, 3. Nigel Boogaard, 5.Osama Malik, 4. Jon McKain, 14.Cameron Watson (2.Michael Marrone), 10. Marcelo Carrusca (7.Jeronimo Neumann), 8.Isaias, 11.Bruce Djite, 9.Sergio Cirio, 22.Fabio Farreira.

Yellow Crads: Malik, McKain, Djite, Marrone

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Victory conjured a narrow win over Adelaide United by four goals to three on Saturday night but the result came at a cost, with Tom Rogic looking to have suffered a severe injury when teammate Leigh Broxham trod inadvertently on his ankle. If he is unable to make the trip to China in the Asian Champions League this coming week, it will significantly weaken Victory's chances of making it out of a tough qualifying group.

Adelaide came smartly out of the blocks, playing four and sometimes five players in attack, three in midfield and the residue in defence. In the fourth minute the visitors poured down the right wing and Fabio Ferriera opened up the Victory defence and his precise pass was put away by Sergio cutting in past Scott Galloway. Victory was on terms in 15 minutes after the somewhat undermanned Adelaide defence lost the ball at the back and Gui Finkler was the beneficiary of some good scavenging by Broxham and an approximate pass by Archie Thompson. It appeared that the teams would go to the break still level but in the last passage of play Scott Galloway was caught a long way from his man, Sergio, who was able to run in and dink the ball over Nathan Coe. One would have expected Kevin Muscat to insist that his right back tighten up in the second half, but he continued to drift infield allowing Sergio to represent a constant threat on the left wing.

Rogic limped off in the 50th minute after his injury with Kosta Barbarouses taking his place and adding speed though perhaps not quite so much skill to the Victory attack. The home side got back to parity in the 57th minute, as once again Broxham broke up an attempt by Adelaide to tidy up after a James Troisi shot had been blocked. He played a one-two with Finkler who squeezed the ball just inside the post. That lifted the home crowd and ten minutes later a long free kick should have been met by a straightforward clearance with his feet by Eugene Galekovic. But for once, the reliable keeper miscued and the ball spun wide where Thompson pounced to slide the ball in from a narrowing angle. Ten more minutes and Victory had another goal as Troisi worked his way along the bye-line and cut the ball back for Barbarouses to score from the edge of the goal area. Adelaide refused to buckle and Sergio completed his hat-trick seizing on a deflection by Contreras who had already received his usual booking for a rash tackle earlier in the game. Adelaide were appealing for a free kick or a penalty, but Sergio settled the matter in his own way. Nathan Coe was booked for pretty blatant time-wasting and ignoring warnings, but Victory held on to its win after five nervy minutes of added time.

The crowd of 18,341 were well entertained and Victory's active fans at the Swan Street end ignored the marked area behind the goal and decamped to the top corner of the stadium to encourage the team vociferously from there. So we were back to the two-ended support which has been a striking feature of Victory's fan behaviour since the early days of the A-League.

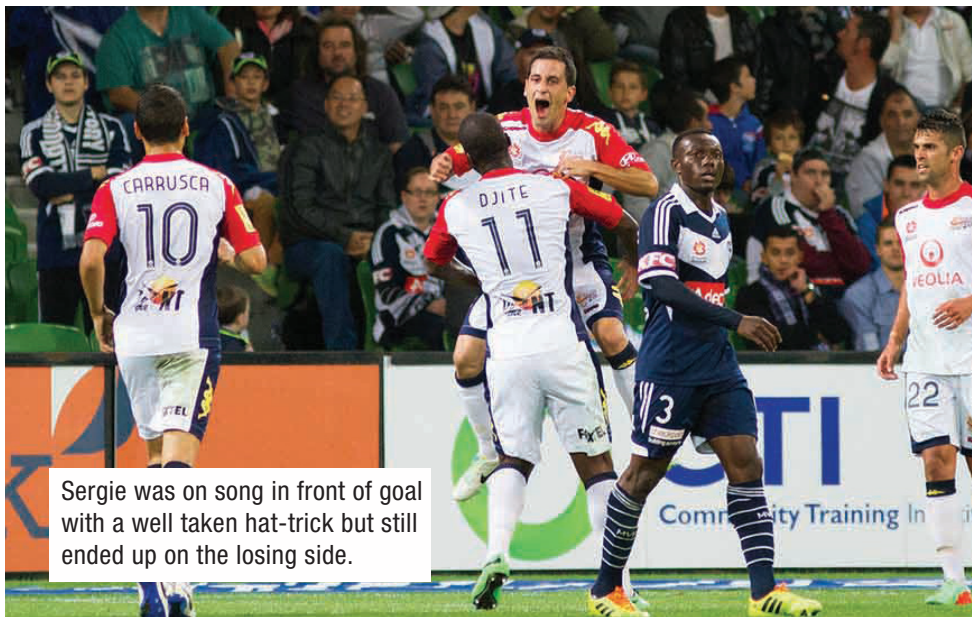
Match Stats

16	Tackles	19
10	Total Shots	12
273	Total Passes	469
38.4%	Possession	61.6%
5	Corners	1
4	Offsides	0
21	Fouls committed	16

Man of the Match
Sergio Cirrio (AUFC)

in an epic encounter, Melbourne Victory's Brazilian import Gui Finkler dazzled with a brace

Archie Thompson enjoys the spoils after capitalising on Eugene Galekovic's fresh air clearance.



Sergie was on song in front of goal with a well taken hat-trick but still ended up on the losing side.

Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory — Fri Feb 28 Suncorp Stadium 8:00 PM

Roar Line Up

1.Michael THEO (gk)
2.Matthew SMITH (c)
3.Shane STEFANUTTO
5. Ivan FRANJIC
7.Besart BERISHA
8.Steven LUSTICA
10.HENRIQUE
11.Liam MILLER
13.Jade NORTH
15.James DONACHIE
16.Jean Carlos SOLORZANO
17.Matt McKAY
18.Luke BRATTAN
20.Matthew ACTON (gk)
22.Thomas BROICH
23.Dimitri PETRATOS

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 25.George LAMBADARDIS (knee – season)

Roar Attempt to get Back on Track

Jarrod Ellis

It's the league leaders taking on a club in turmoil this Friday night as Brisbane Roar plays host to Perth Glory.

Brisbane will be hoping to get its Premier's Plate challenge back on track at home whilst Perth will need to put in a much improved performance if they're to arrest their decline in fortunes.

The Glory haven't won in six matches, only two in their last nine, and after last weekend's results sit equal on points with cellar dwellers Melbourne Heart at the foot of the table.

A timid 2-0 loss to Western Sydney Wanderers has lead to some observers claiming that the Western Australian club's finals hopes for this season are all but over and given the nature of their recent performances it's difficult to envisage the Glory anywhere but propping up the table come the end of the season.

William Gallas' dreadful error last weekend has garnered plenty of attention around the world but it's the more recent reports of disharmony within the club that should be of most concern to the club's fans.

Gallas and assistant coach Anthony Ord reportedly clashed after the Wanderers match and with a dressing room that has already deposed one coach this season Kenny Lowe must be feeling the pressure.

A win against Brisbane would go some way to keeping the Glory's fading finals hopes alive but with only one win away from home all season that will be a tough ask. That said if Perth can score first they may be able to hang on for a result with the last five matches between these two clubs not seeing more than a single goal scored.

Whilst not in quite the same dire straits as their opponents Brisbane are having their own struggles. Back-to-back losses has resulted in the Roar's lead at the A-League summit being cut from ten points to merely four and with seven matches still to be played the club that looked to have one hand on the Premier's Plate is now looking nervously over its shoulder.

Brisbane dominated possession last week in the loss to Melbourne Heart but it was a largely sterile performance from a team that has been lauded many times this season as an attacking force.

Heart's physicality unsettled Brisbane's midfield and unable to transition quickly from defence to attack Brisbane's play stagnated.

The role of Besart Berisha in Friday's match should be noted as the Albanian continued his poor form from recent games. The A-League's top striker repeatedly dropped deep in search of the ball against Melbourne, a tactic that often left Brisbane with no focal point or outlet further up the pitch.

With Jean Carlos Solorzano on the bench and a good record this season when Berisha was absent with injury Mike Mulvey may be tempted to shake up his side in order to get a response.

Dropping Berisha is a big call but with the season coming to a close Brisbane can ill afford to slump now. Mulvey has proved a capable A-League manager and if he can turn back the clock a mere couple of weeks that Brisbane side should be too much for Perth.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Roar 1.50 Draw 4.50 Glory 8.00	Played 27 Roar 16 Glory 5 Drawn 6

Referee: Ben Williams

Radio Broadcast: 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio QLD, 720 ABC Perth, ABC Local Radio WA, Grandstand Digital, Online/Mobile phone app. SBS Radio. Live Match Stream: FFA will be streaming live coverage of the fixture in the official Match Centre.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #BRIvPER #EraseRacism

Kiss of Death
Brisbane 1-0 Glory

Glory Line Up

1.Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)
2.Jack CLISBY
3.Brandon O'NEILL
5.Rostyn GRIFFITHS
7.Jacob BURNS (c)
8.Nebojsa MARINKOVIC
9.Shane SMELTZ
10.Jamie MACLAREN
14.Steven McGARRY
16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
17.Chris HAROLD
18.Jack DUNCAN
19.Josh RISDON
20.Daniel DE SILVA
28.Darvydas SERNAS
36.William GALLAS

In: 3.Brandon O'NEILL (promoted) , 10.Jamie MACLAREN (promoted)

Out: Michael THWAITE (suspension – 1 match), 25.Riley WOODCOCK (omitted)

Unavailable: Travis DODD (knee – indefinite), Scott JAMIESON (Achilles – indefinite)

Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC — Sat Mar 1 Bluetongue Stdm 5:30 PM

Mariners Line Up

1.Justin PASFIELD (Gk)
3.Joshua ROSE
4.Marcel SEIP
5.Zachary ANDERSON
6.Brent GRIFFITHS
7.John HUTCHINSON (c)
8.Nick MONTGOMERY
9.Mitchell DUKE
11.Nick FITZGERALD
12.Liam REDDY (Gk)
15.Storm ROUX
17.Anthony CACERES
19.Matt SIMON
20.Bernie IBINI
21.Mile STERJOVSKI
25.Eddy BOSNAR
26.KIM Seung-yong
29.Matt SIM
Two to be omitted

In: 3.Joshua ROSE (returns from suspension), 6.Brent GRIFFITHS (returns from suspension), 11.Nick FITZGERALD (returns from suspension), 19.Matt SIMON (returns from suspension)

Out: 22.Tom SLATER (omitted), 28.Glen TRIFIRO (omitted)
Unavailable: 10.Marcos FLORES (knee – season), 14.Michael MCGLINCHEY (on loan – Vegalta Sendai), 18.Michael NEILL (knee – season), 23.Adam KWASNIK (knee – season)

Victory at Bluetongue – Nightmare for Sydney?

Adrian Deans

For Sydney FC there has never been a good time to play the Mariners – not in the last few seasons.

They've conceded 15 goals in their last five visits to Bluetongue and haven't won there since the epic 5 – 4 result of 2007.

But the Mariners are no longer the fearsome side they've been. Somehow the famous Mariners system has held it all together despite the revolving door out of Gosford for any player who can kick a ball remotely straight. Until now.

After four losses on the spin, the Mariners are a shadow of the side that lifted the Championship trophy last season. The players are gone, but so are the systems and patterns that screwed the life out of all comers since Arnie arrived. This is no criticism of Mossy. The systems and patterns can only survive when enough of the players remain to keep it alive. With the January departures of Sainsbury and McBreen, the camel has collapsed under the final straw. And now Mossy is rebuilding.

Sydney, of course, have been rebuilding since 2010, with false dawn after false dawn as they go on a short run and then collapse again – throwing crippling pressure on whichever poor bastard has the coaching gig at any particular time.

I have to say I'm no fan of Frank Farina. His teams have a reputation for being cliquey and I've never once seen him respond to a developing situation with a telling tactical change the way Postecoglou, Arnold, Mulvey, Gombau and even the likes of Van Egmond and Alistair Edwards are able to do. Sydney, frankly, are a rabble who occasionally win due to the brilliance of Del Piero and one or two others. It has little to do with the coach (as far as I can tell from my Ivory Tower) and that's what's frustrating the fans. When the team is playing badly and showing no sign of systemic improvement, the fans would almost prefer to see their team lose in order to reach the bottom and start the recovery.

Sydney have never quite reached the bottom, which means they're a fair chance of finishing fourth – thus triggering Frank Farina's contract extension. He is the wrong man for Sydney but another win will help elongate his stay.

The Mariners though are in no fit state to help the Sydney fans by winning. They used to be known for their possession game but this year they're playing low percentage balls and constantly having to regroup after losing possession in midfield. In fact they almost look like they've given up for the year, but they've bounced back so many times in the past…

Can they do it again?

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adriandeans.com

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Mariners 2.30 Draw 3.50 Sydney FC 3.20	Played 27 Mariners 10 Sydney FC 10 Drawn 7

Referee: Jarred Gillett

TV Broadcast: 5.00pm (AEDT) Live and exclusive broadcast on FOX Sports 1HD and Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand).

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local radio NSW, 1233 ABC Newcastle, Grandstand Digital Online/Mobile A-league live phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvSYD #EraseRacism

Kiss of Death
Mariners 2-1 Sydney FC

Sydney FC Line Up

1.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk)
4.Ranko DESPOTOVIC
5.Matt JURMAN
6.Nikola PETKOVIC
9.Corey GAMEIRO
10.Alessandro DEL PIERO (c)
11.Richard GARCIA
13.Sasa OGNENOVSKI
17.Terry ANTONIS
19.Nick CARLE
20.Vedran JANJETOVIC (gk)
21.Milos DIMITRIJEVIC
22.Ali ABBAS
24.Hagi GLIGOR
28.Matt THOMPSON
29.Alec UROSEVSKI
34.Aaron CALVER
36.Themba MUATA-MARLOW
Two to be omitted

In: Aaron CALVER (returns from suspension), Nick CARLE (returns from injury), Milos DIMITRIJEVIC (promoted)

Out: Daniel PETKOVSKI (omitted)

Unavailable: Rhyan GRANT (knee – season), Pedj BOJIC (back – indefinite)

Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory — Sat Mar 1 AAMI Park 7:30 PM

Heart Line Up

1.Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)
3.Robbie WIELAERT
4.Orlando ENGELAAR
7.Iain RAMSAY
8.Massimo MURDOCCA
10.Harry KEWELL (c)
11.Michael MIFSUD
13.Jonatan GERMANO
15.David WILLIAMS
17.Jason HOFFMAN
18.David VRANKOVIC
19.Benjamin GARRUCIO
20.Tando VELHAPI (GK)
21.Stefan MAUK
22.Nicholas KALMAR
23.Mate DUGANDZIC
24.Patrick KISNORBO
27.Luke O'DEA
Two to be omitted

In: 3.Robbie WIELAERT (returns from suspension), 10.Harry KEWELL (returns from injury), 11.Michael MIFSUD (promoted), 27.Luke O'DEA (promoted)

Out: 6.Patrick GERHARDT (suspended –1 week), 16.Aziz BEHICH (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: Nil

Heart to take advantage of weary Victory

Chris Hearn

Australia's footballing landscape will come to a standstill this Saturday evening, as these two fierce rivals clash at AAMI Park.

Third-placed Victory face arguably the in-form team of the competition. After the Heart went winless for 19 matches, an overwhelming response has superseded it. It's a period that the club needed after their abysmal opening to the campaign. To put a number on it, the Heart have picked up 16 points from a possible 18

Finals are now a possibility when last month the very thought was inconceivable.

A crowd of well-over 25,000 is expected as the Heart's home contingent will be in eager anticipation of their fifth win in succession.

The past Melbourne derbies have encompassed all that is good about the Hyundai A-League. Tense, attacking contests have been the theme all along. In the 11 fixtures prior, only once has the winning margin been greater than a single goal, a 3-1 triumph to the Victory in December.

With 26 goals in the derby's short history, an average of 2.36 goals are scored per game. What is different about this meeting, however, is the poor recent defensive record of both sides. The Victory having conceded a competition-high 32 goals in 20 matches, while the Heart have conceded 30. Goals are to be expected.

Apart from the Heart's good form, the fact that the Victory faced Chinese champions, Guangzhou Evergrande, in the ACL midweek may force a squad reshuffle for Kevin Muscat. Football is a team game and it will not be used as an excuse, but it could harm his sides continuity heading into such a massive contest.

The Heart have their own selection dilemmas, with Patrick Gerhardt and former Victory-man Aziz Behich suspended due to racking up 5 bookings this season. Initially struggling to find his feet after returning from a stint with Turkish side Bursaspor, Behich has found his form again and will be more disappointed than anybody to not be participating in this fixture.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Heart 2.50 Draw 3.40 Victory 2.85	Played 11 Heart 3 Victory 4 Drawn 4

Referee: Strebre Delovski

Radio Broadcast: ABC Grandstand Full Coverage Online/Mobile phone app. SEN Radio.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MelbDerby #EraseRacism

Kiss of Death
Heart 2-1 Victory

Robbie Wielaert returns from suspension, and Harry Kewell may figure in some capacity after injuring his foot against Perth Glory on the 9th of February.

For the visitors, Tom Rogic's injury status has been downgraded to not serious, but it is unclear whether he will feature in this match. He did not travel with the squad for their Champions League tie.

As I alluded to earlier, the extra travel midweek may hurt the Victory's chances against a revitalised Heart charging towards the finals with reckless abandon.

Victory Line Up

1.Nathan COE (gk)
3.Adama TRAORE
4.Nick ANSELL
5.Mark MILLIGAN (c)
6.Leigh BROXHAM
7.Gui FINKLER
9.Kosta BARBAROUSES
10.Archie THOMPSON
11.Connor PAIN
13.Andrew NABBOUT
14.James TROISI
16.Rashid MAHAZI
20.Lawrence THOMAS (gk)
21.Tom ROGIC
22.Jesse MAKAROUNAS
24.Scott GALLOWAY
25.Jason GERIA
31.Dylan MURNANE
Two to be omitted

In: 11.Connor PAIN (promoted), 25.Jason GERIA (promoted) 31.Dylan MURNANE (promoted)

Out: 2.Pablo CONTRERAS (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: 23.Adrian LEIJER (facial fractures – 3-4 weeks)

West Syd Wanderers v Newcastle Jets — Sun Mar 2 Parramatta Stdm 5:00 PM

Wanderers Line Up

1.Ante COVIC (gk)
2.Shannon COLE
3.Adam D'APUZZO
4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY
5.Michael BEAUCHAMP
6.Jerome POLENZ
7.Labinot HALITI
8.Mateo POLJAK
10.Aaron MOOY
11.Brendon SANTALAB
13.Matthew SPIRANOVIC
15.Kwabena APPIAH
17.Youssouf HERSI
19.Iacopo LA ROCCA
19.Mark BRIDGE
20.Jerrad TYSON (gk)
21.Shinji ONO
22.Dean HEFFERNAN
Two to be Omitted

In: 1.Ante COVIC (Return from injury), 5.Michael BEAUCHAMP (promoted), 6.Jerome POLENZ (return from suspension), 19.Mark BRIDGE (promoted), 21.Shinji ONO (return from injury)

Out: 9.Tom JURIC (Groin – 2 weeks),.Jason TRIFIRO (omitted), 30.Thomas MANOS (gk) (omitted)

Unavailable: 12.Tahj MINNIECON - ankle (indefinite)

Wanderers look to bounce back

Saman Ziaei

Western Sydney Wanderers will be looking to bounce back after their home defeat in the AFC champions league against Ulsan Hyundai where they can come closer to claiming first place, while Newcastle Jets will be fighting to reach the final series landing in the top six and hopefully a place in pot A in the 2014 FFA cup.

After an impressive performance away from home against Perth Glory in round 20, Western Sydney came into their first ever champions league fixture with confidence against the 2012 Korean champions. They got off to a perfect start after Brednan Santalab was able to strike from Shinji Ono's magnificent pass just 43 seconds into the game, making it one of the fastest goals in the competition, but their hopes of a win were short lived as too many defensive errors caused them to suffer a 3-1 defeat at home. Considering how quick and impressive the first goal was, many started to believe the final result would go well in favour of the home side, however, given their inexperience on the international scale, Ulsan would prove otherwise. The Wanderers will now be looking to make amends, by seeing off their opponents this Sunday in front of their home crowd, but can the Jets bounce back after going down 2-0 to Sydney FC at home?

Although Newcastle have had their moments like any other team this season, they have impressed many by their ability to beat the league leader, Brisbane Roar, three out three times this season. On the other hand, out of the remaining clubs Newcastle has only beaten Melbourne's Heart and Victory and Adelaide once, which leaves a lot to think about for Clayton Zane with only 7 games remaining if they are to end up in the finals series. Unfortunately their marquee player has not been able to find the back of the net in over a year, playing a total of 627 minutes with only two shots on target. Captain and midfielder Zadkovich has attempted the most shots, a toga of 22, without scoring once and as a team the Jets have failed to score in 9 games this season, more than any other team in the competition. Despite the fact that they have held their ground firmly in the final 15 minutes, only conceding 1 goal in 20 games, the final 15 minutes of the first half is when they have conceded the most, a total of 11.

Historically Western Sydney have been the more dominant of these two teams despite losing their first game against the Jets at home in November 2012. Since then, the Wanderers have won three times and drew once, with winger Mark bridge scoring a total of 4 goals against them. Surely Popovic's men will be tired from Wednesdays champions league game, but none will rest on their laurels as this is a league and a team they are well familiar with.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Wanderers 1.57 Draw 4.00 Jets 7.50	Played 5 Wanderers 3 Jets 1 Drawn 1

Referee: Chris Beath

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local radio NSW,1233 ABC Newcastle, Grandstand Digital Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WSWvNEW #EraseRacism

Kiss of Death
Wanderers 2-1 Jets

Jets Line Up

1.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
3.Taylor REGAN
4.Kew JALIENS
6.Zenon CARAVELLA
7.Andrew HOOLE
8.Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)
9.Emile HESKEY
11.Craig GOODWIN
13.Joey GIBBS
14.Josh MITCHELL
15.Josh BRILLANTE
17.James VIRGILI
20.Ben KENNEDY (gk)
21.Sam GALLAWAY
22.Adam TAGGART
23.David CARNEY
24.Mitch OXBORROW
29.Joel GRIFFITHS
Two to be omitted

In: 4.Kew JALIENS (returns from suspension). 13.Joey Gibbs (promoted)

Out: Nil.

Unavailable: 2.Scott NEVILLE (knee – long term) 18.Jacob PEPPER (knee – short term), 25.Mitch COOPER (knee – long term), 27.Nick WARD (knee – short term)

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Catch LIVE updates of all the games and action pics on Goal! Weekly's facebook & Twitter pages

Diamanti sparkles on Guangzhou debut

Brendan Santalab gets the Wanderers off to a dream start in the ACL, but the Koreans stormed back to run out winners 3-1. Photo: GEORGE MARIN

Alessandro Diamanti's dream debut helped Guangzhou Evergrande open their AFC Champions League defence with a 4-2 win over Melbourne Victory.

The Italy international moved to the Chinese Super League champions earlier this month, after spending much of his career in his homeland, but he took no time to adapt to football in Asia.

His debut did not get off to the ideal start, with Pablo Contreras and Leigh Broxham handing the Australian side into a two-goal lead at the break.

However, after Huang Bowen had pulled a goal back, Diamanti registered his first for his new club to level after 65 minutes before Elkeson continued his goalscoring form from last season to put the hosts ahead.

After that flurry of goals looked to have guaranteed Guangzhou the points, Diamanti completed his brace five minutes from time to cap a superb performance.

Marcello Lippi's men sit level on points with Jeonbuk Motors in Group G after the South Korean side put three past Yokohama F Marinos without reply.

The scores were level after an hour at the Jeonju World Cup Stadium but Lee Seung-ki hit a brace within nine minutes before Leonardo added a third from the spot 19 minutes from time.

Jeonbuk's K-League rivals Ulsan Hyundai also secured a comfortable three points - recovering from an early Brendon Santalab goal to beat Australia's Western Sydney Wanderers move top as the early leaders of Group H.

Santalab scored after just a minute but efforts from Kim Shin-wook, Ko Chang-hyeon and Kang Min-soo ensured Ulsan of three points before Kawasaki Frontale followed suit with a 1-0 win over Guizhou Renhe, courtesy of Renatinho's 31st-minute goal.

"The turning point of the game came when we had to replace (striker Zlatan) Muslimovic because of injury, which changed the atmosphere of the game," Renhe coach Gong Lei explained.

Despite seeing Ali Karimi sent off after an hour, Tractorsazi Tabriz recorded a 1-0 victory over two-time winners Al Ittihad, while Asamoah Gyan was the hero for Al Ain in their 2-1 win over Lekhwiya of Qatar.

Two late goals from Nadir Belhadj and Rodrigo Tabata helped Al Sadd overcome Sepahan 3-1 before the final game of the day saw Al Hilal and Al Ahli play out an entertaining 2-2 draw.

After Luis Jimenez and Grafite had given the visitors the lead at the King Fahd International Stadium, a Nasser Al-Shamrani double gained Al Hilal what had looked at one stage like an unlikely point in Group D.

Advance Australia Fare

Group F

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
FC Seoul (Kor)	1	1	0	0	2	3
Sanfrecce (Jpn)	1	0	1	0	1	1
Beijing (Chn)	1	0	1	0	1	1
Mariners (Aus)	1	0	0	1	0	0

Sanfrecce (Jpn) 1-1 Beijing (Chn)
FC Seoul (Kor) 2-0 Mariners (Aus)

Group G

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Jeonbuk (Kor)	1	1	0	0	3	3
Guangzhou (Chn)	1	1	0	0	2	3
Melb Victory (Aus)	1	0	0	1	2	0
Yokohama (Jpn)	1	0	0	1	0	0

Jeonbuk (Kor) 3-0 Okohama (Jpn)
Guangzhou (Chn) 4-2 Victory (Aus)

Group H

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Ulsan (Kor)	1	1	0	0	3	3
Kawasaki (Jpn)	1	1	0	0	1	3
Guizhou (Chn)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Wanderers (Aus)	1	0	0	1	1	0

Wanderers (Aus) 1-3 Ulsan (Kor)
Kawasaki (Jpn) 1-0 Guizhou (Chn)

Next Round

Tue 11th March
Mariners (Aus) v Sanfrecce (Jpn)

Wed 12th March
Guizhou (Chn) v Wanderers (Aus)
Melb Victory (Aus) v Jeonbuk (Kor)

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We will be hosting our club open day on Sunday 2nd March between 10:00am-2:00pm. There will be a sausage sizzle, face painting and a jumping castle for the kids.
Player registrations start from $150 for Under 7s which covers the whole season. Players of all ages are required!

Frankston Pines turns 50

Frankston Pines is celebrating its 50th Anniversary next year and will be holding a reunion to celebrate the milestone accordingly.

Former players, coaches, officials, fans, and anyone else that has graced Monterey Reserve is encouraged to contact Tommy on 0417 338 178 for further details.

The club has already commenced preparations to mark the occasion and even hopes to invite Ernie Merrick as a special guest. The Wellington Phoenix manager was assistant coach to Danny McMinimee some time before he won two A-League championships with Melbourne Victory and going on to coach the Hong Kong national team.

Round 21: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Roar - 15 Glory - 0 - Draw - 0 Mariners - 4 Sydney FC - 6 Draw - 5 Heart - 8 Victory - 5 Draw - 2 Adelaide - 11 Phoenix - 2 Draw - 2 Wanderers - 14 Jets - 0 Draw - 1

Santo Cilauro 49
Roar
Draw
Draw
Adelaide
WSW
Last week: 2

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian 44
Roar
Sydney
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 1

Media Mogul

George Calombaris 50
Brisbane Roar
Draw
Melbourne Victory
Adelaide United
Wanderers
Last week: 4

No.1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic 27
Roar
Draw
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

John Perin 42
Brisbane
Draw
Victory
Draw
WSW
Last week: 2

Hall of Fame Socceroo

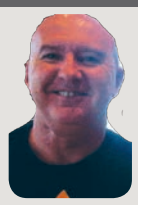
Andy Harper 38
Brisbane
Sydney
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 2

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas 48
Roar
Mariners
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 2

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell 48
Brisbane
Sydney
Heart
Phoenix
Wanderers
Last week: 2



Former Socceroo

George Campbell 45
Brisbane
Draw
Victory
Draw
Wanderers
Last week: 2

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney 34
Roar
Mariners
Victory
Pheonix
Draw
Last week: 1

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman 45
Roar
Sydney FC
Victory
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 0

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle 33
Roar
Mariners
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 3

Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos 48
Brisbane
Sydney
Draw
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

Steve Blair 41
Roar
Sydney
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

Kiss Of Death 42
Roar
Mariners
Heart
Adelaide
Wanderers
Last week: 1

GW Contributors

STRAIGHT JACKET
ADRIAN DEANS

A new novel by GW's Adrian Deans

Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates.
Straight Jacket is a ripsnorter of a ride through the dark heart of the burbs and may just be Australia's answer to American Psycho.
Kirsten Krauth, just_a_girl

Sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing, and always compelling. With a super original premise and a one-of-a-kind protagonist, Deans' entertaining follow up to Mr Cleansheets delivers on every level.
Tony Wilson, Making News

A disturbingly good read. Unnerving and darkly comic.
Stuart Quin, Ealing Studios Australia

Available from Readings Bookstores

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Season 2014
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Great Package's to suit everyone
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Contact us at 0407 890 098 or
live.pixel@hotmail.com

Top Opta Facts

Catch LIVE updates of all the games and action pics on Goal! Weekly's facebook & Twitter pages

Round 21

Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory

Glory have failed to score a goal in each of their last three A-League meetings with Brisbane Roar.

There have been just four goals scored in the last five A-League games between Glory and Roar, with four of these games ending 1-0.

Glory have won just five points away from home this season; fewer than any other side (W1 D2 L7).

Glory are on a six game winless run in the A-League (L4 D2) – they haven't been on a run as bad as this since February 2013 (eight games). Glory have netted just four goals in this six game run without avictory.

Roar have not scored in their last two A-League games – they haven't failed to score in three successive A-League matches since August 2010.

Roar have scored the highest number of goals in the final 15 minutes of A-League games this term (10).

Thomas Brioch has created more goalscoring chances than any other A-League player this season (63), including 10 in his last game against Glory – the most by an A-League player in a single match this season.

Brioch has also suffered the most fouls in the A-League this season (82) – 29 more than any other player.

CC Mariners v Sydney FC

SFC have conceded 15 goals in their last five A-League trips to play Mariners, including a 2-7 defeat there in November 2012 – the joint-highest scoring game in the history of the competition (nine goals).

Despite being fourth in the table ahead of this matchday, SFC have lost more games than any other A-League team this season (10).

Mariners have lost four games in a row – their longest such run since December 2009 (five games).

Mariners have not conceded a goal before the 20th minute in an A-League game this season; the only side yet to do so.

SFC have scored the highest proportion of goals in the first half of matches this season (63%).

Alessandro Del Piero has scored a league-high four penalties (out of four taken) this season.

SFC have been given more red cards than any other A-League side this season (4).

Mariners have conceded seven goals in their last two A-League home games – the same number as they had in their previous 15 at home in the competition.

Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory

Victory are unbeaten in their last four A-League games against city rivals Heart (W3 D1).

Heart have lost their last two A-League home matches versus Victory and are without a win in three versus them there (D1 L2).

John van 't Schip are the only team to have gone undefeated in their last six A-League matches (W5 D1).

Heart's current four game winning run is the joint-best seen in the A-League this season – no side has won five in a row in 2013-14.

Only one side (Adelaide United) has gone seven consecutive games unbeaten in the A-League this season – Melbourne Heart's will equal this is they win or draw this game.

Victory have gone 10 games without a clean sheet in the A-League – the only team to have gone on a longer run in the competition this season are rivals Heart (11 games).

Heart have scored the most goals in the opening 15 minutes of the second half (8) in matches this season.

79% of Heart's goals this season have arrived in the second half of matches – a league-high proportion.

Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix

The last five meetings between these two sides in the A-League have produced 18 goals (3.6 per game).

Adelaide have won four of their last five A-League home games against Wellington Phoenix (L1).

Adelaide have scored in their last nine A-League matches – the longest such run seen in the competition this season so far.

Phoenix have won seven of their last 10 A-League games (D1 L2). They had won seven of their 38 A-League games prior to this run.

Adelaide have kept four clean sheets in their last six A-League home games.

Phoenix star Carlos Hernandez has been involved in 14 A-League goals this season (six goals, eight assists) – more than any other player.

Sergio Cirio became just the fourth player to score an A-League hat-trick last weekend in Adelaide's 3-4 defeat to M.Victory. He is the only one of these four players not to end on the winning side, however.

Stein Huysegems has scored (8) or assisted (3) 11 of Wellington's last 21 goals in the A-League.

Huysegems is also the top scoring player in the A-League in 2014 so far (six goals).

Adelaide have scored the most goals in the opening 15 minutes of A-League games this season (6).

West Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets

Since losing their first ever A-League game against Newcastle Jets, WSW's are unbeaten in four A-League meetings with them (W3 D1).

Mark Bridge has scored four goals in the last four meetings between Western Sydney Wanderers and Newcastle Jets.

Newcastle Jets have failed to score in nine A-League games this season; more often than any other team.

Western Sydney Wanderers have kept a league-high eight clean sheets in the A-League in 2013-14.

Newcastle Jets have conceded the fewest goals in the final 15 minutes of A-League games this season (1), but have conceded the most in the final 15 minutes of the first half (11).

Newcastle Jets' Ruben Zadkovich has attempted the most shots without scoring in the A-League this season (22).

Western Sydney Wanderers have faced just 70 shots on target this season; fewer than any other A-League team.

Emile Heskey has attempted just two shots on target in 627 minutes of A-League football this season and hasn't scored in the competition in over a year (Feb 15th 2013).

RAISING MY OPINION

Andre Zwan in NZ

West Ham FC to tour NZ

West Ham United, home of All White defender Winston Reid, is in negotiations with Wellington Phoenix to play two games in New Zealand this year.

West Ham United, currently placed 10th on the Premier league table have tentatively agreed to play a game in Wellington and Auckland. Could this be the beginning of a deeper partnership ala Manchester City and Melbourne Heart?

The Hammers, as West Ham are known, are technically owned by David Sullivan and David Gould. In fact Sullivan purchased an additional 25% of shares from CB Holdings, a company owned by an Icelandic Bank, in 2013. The bank took control of the club in the early 2000's.

West Ham has a proud reputation and will, like the visit of LA Galaxy to these shores a few years back, draw large crowds. It is one of eight existing clubs never to have fallen below the second tier of English football spending 55 of 87 league seasons in the top echelon. However, unlike the other seven (Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur) West Ham has never won the League title. They did finish third in 1985-1986.

Gareth Morgan, the eccentric millionaire co-owner of Phoenix, will undoubtedly be scouring for an overseas club to purchase a controlling share in the Wellington club. The negotiations with West Ham could well be a door opener. Meanwhile Morgan might have to wait a few months before having a tilt at the chairmanship of Football New Zealand.

The organisation announced earlier this week that Bill Moran, the Deputy Chair and head of the Local Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup to be held in New Zealand in 2015, will be the interim boss of the NZF until the AGM in May. The position was vacated by Frank van Hattum.

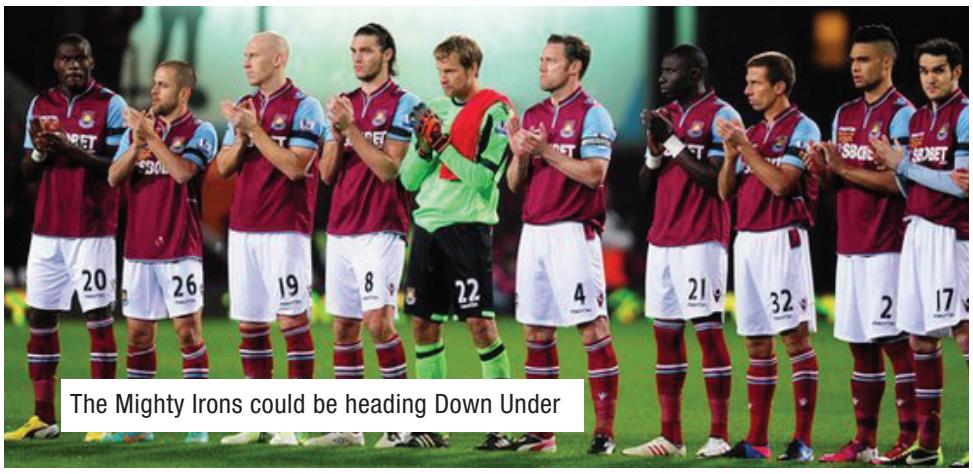
Other news from the shaky isles is that Auckland FC has won the minor ASB Bank Premiership title and has qualified for the OFC Championships. For the uninitiated, winning the OFC crown and playing against countries like Fiji, Vanuatu and PNG, will qualify Auckland to play in the FIFA Club World Cup and earn millions of dollars.

The Kiwis might have a second team in that competition should either Hawke's Bay United, Team Wellington or Canterbury United win the play-offs instead of the much fancied Auckland FC outfit.

Meanwhile New Zealand football fans are celebrating the success of the Junior Football Ferns who have qualified for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Canada later this year. They beat Papua New Guinea 3-0 in the final of the OFC U-20 championship here in Mangere last weekend.

Ferns coach Aaron McFarland said: "We are ecstatic to be heading to Canada. PNG gave us a tough time and the scoreline belies the true battle that took place on field.

Emma Rolston won the Golden Boot award with four goals.



The Mighty Irons could be heading Down Under

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to express my disappointment about the article "NPL Structure Announced for 2014" published in Goal Weekly (February 14 edition). The article was riddled with inaccuracies. Two examples:

(1) "Peninsula Strikers applied for NPL licence, but had their bid rejected". Peninsula Strikers did not lodge an application.

(2) "Allegations have also been made that the independent panel tasked with assessing the bids only passed 21 of 38 applicants, before sections of FFV's board added more applicants to the list". That statement is completely false.

Fundamental to the profession of journalism is seeking balance. Had reporter Paul Mavroudis simply made a phone call to me and asked some straight forward questions he would have received the facts. Mr. Mavroudis has embedded comment into a "news" article … that is a dangerous practice that a Publisher should not condone.

Goal Weekly's contents box published on Page 3 contains the following statement: "Goal Weekly endeavours to be as accurate as possible with everything it publishes." Respectfully, the foundation of achieving that endeavour, and common courtesy, is to offer a right of reply to "allegations".

FFV will consider making an official complaint to the Australian Press Council if future articles in Goal Weekly fail to adhere to the basic tenets of journalism.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
Football Federation Victoria

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MELBOURNE VICTORY

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Melbourne Victory 2 (De Vanna 38', Barnes 41') Brisbane Roar 0 Sunday, February 23, 2014 Lakeside Stadium, Crowd: 2,504

Photos: LIVE PIXELS, KAREN DOUGLAS

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Compiled by Roy Skillen

This week in the world of Australian football we saw the birth of a long talked about project. The unveiling of a new competition that will hopeful bring the missing ingredient to the game on these shores. The missing ingredient that will help it grow in to the beast we all know it can be, romance. This new found dimension to the Australian game will be delivered in the form of the FFA Cup, which will see the elite of the A-League compete against the semi-pro teams of the newly formed National Premier League. With giant killings a plenty there are sure to be more and more positive headlines with players rising from nowhere to FFA Cup glory, but there was just one request that all the fans wanted as the design for the trophy itself was talked about.

Anthony @mancuso75 Feb 21
@AussieSoccer @FFA Got to be massive cup regardless, bigger than champions league

And we got our wish

This was also the week that Lucas Neil's international career came to an end with the former captain being omitted from the Socceroos squad to face Ecuador in London next month.

It seemed to be big news in some quarters.

SBS - The World Game @TheWorldGame 9h
BREAKING: Lucas Neill has been left out of the @Socceroos squad to face Ecuador on 6 March (AEDT). More to come soon.

But this was more of a surprise to me.

Rob Scriva @rovingrob 7h
The AFL logo next to the #socceroos squad announcement #whoops pic.twitter.com/CD9xbLVLd8

Now if the AFL's new sponsorship of the Socceroos doesn't surprise you how about this chick.

Paul Ifill @Paullfill 12h
Just got to nip into town think il throw my football boots on!
#strange pic.twitter.com/GcyeknJK6Y

So what was it all about. Here are some ideas from the Twitter world.

Billy Frendo @little_ted74 11h
@Paullfill coffee with the girls, a bit of shopping, then some overlapping runs from left back?

Billy Frendo @little_ted74 11h
@Paullfill coffee with the girls, a bit of shopping, then some overlapping runs from left back?

TheWorldScout @AussieSoccer 5h
@Paullfill @THJ93 she is definitely wearing them in for new season. No place for blisters in first match

Ben Webster @benatuppers_ben 11h
@Paullfill W.T.F is this about??!!!!!!! Replacing Lucas Neil perhaps?

Here at Goal Weekly we love top talent so I though I would end this segment by honoring the great Thierry Henry. These are some top top figures.

Almost as good as me. Honest watch this.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltuc4sD4yDI

PoL's Football Funnies

Boo's World

Mark Boric

Lucas Neill has found a club, and a solid finish to the season could see him back in World Cup contention. Joining Watford, he may be reworking one of the songs of their former Chairman to sing "don't let the sun go down on my career".

The FFA Cup was launched with a bit of fanfare on Monday. It's taken a while to get this Cup off the ground, strange considering it was cited as the reason Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory couldn't compete in the FFV's Mirabella Cup back in 2011.

The various State Cups will be used to work out who qualifies for the main draw of the FFA Cup. It's a slight disappointment that this will begin at a round of 32 rather than a round of 64, but hopefully if it is received well this may be rectified in the future.

I've said it before, will say it again now, and no doubt will say it again in the future but having the Perth Glory game as the late Saturday fixture can sure kill a football marathon. I understand that it has to be that way because of timezone differences, but Glory v Wanderers was always going to be a massive let down after an exiting Victory v Adelaide clash.

From an action packed game with a very vocal crowd topped with commentators reaching new heights of ecstasy (and no doubt needing a box of tissues to clean up afterwards) we went to a typically dull Perth affair with a a crowd that seemed indifferent to what was taking place in from of them. I wouldn't be suprised if the commentators resorted to flicking channels on their monitors looking for something more interesting to keep them occupied.

It was a weekend of howlers, with William Gallas raising a bar that had been set pretty high by Eugene Galekovic. It went viral instantly, which probably made him feel even sicker than the air swing.

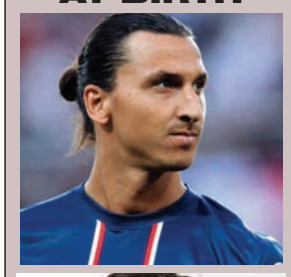
All kinds of rumours emanating from what is clearly a very unhappy Glory camp. To think many of them thought everything would start to be rosy after Ljubo Milicevic departed late in the pre-season.

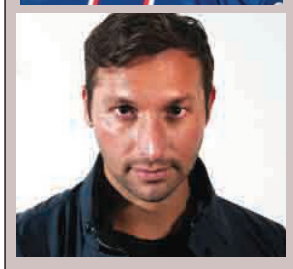
Manchester City didn't have to do much to turn things around at Melbourne Heart. It's been onwards and upwards ever since the takeover. Well, not really upwards because despite four wins in a row they still haven't gotten off the bottom of the ladder. It has set up a huge Derby this week, maybe Simon Hill will be able to call it the Big Blue Too if Heart end up adopting some Sky Blue in the near future.

John Sanchez holds aloft the 1963 Australia Cup after Slavia had beaten Polonia 3-2.

You will have spotted that the FFA Cup trophy is modeled on the Australia Cup which was played for between 1962 and 1968. The last winner was Hakoah Sydney and the old trophy was found in a dumpster outside the Hakoah Club in Bondi, Sydney during renovations. The top was missing and thankfully our great historian Roy Hay supplied photographs of Johnny Sanchez of Slavia with the trophy so that they could get the design right.

SEPARATED AT BIRTH

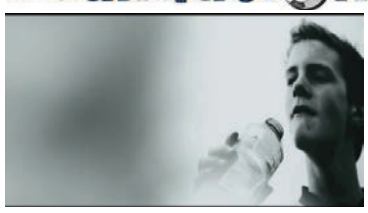




Zlatan Ibrahimovic and **Ian Thorpe** have both launched their fair share of torpedos in their careers and we reckon they could have been water babies at some stage together too. Seen any uncanny doppelgangers lately? Let us know on our facebook page and you could win a prize.

**We all know the power of football to move people as well as nations, now here is your chance to be part of the World Premiere of a movie that tells exaclty that story.
Tickets to "More than Just a Game" are now available, a film that the Reagan Milstein Foundation features in.
Buying a ticket also raises money for the RMF.
Tickets start from $25 and the opening night is Thursday May 1st from 7pm at the Classic Cinema in Elsternwick.
You can buy your tickets at
www.sportaroo.com/morethanjustagame
The film is all about discovering the true nature of football and its power to change lives.
See more about it here at
https://www.facebook.com/morethanjustagame
Meet the film crew and "stars" on the night.
Dont miss it!**

The Reagan Milstein Foundation



Photos: ANITA MILAS

Victory clinch maiden W-League title

By Katie Lambeski

Melbourne Victory claimed its maiden W-League title on a perfect Sunday afternoon at Lakeside Stadium, fighting off Brisbane Roar in a tense 2-0 win. It took two strokes of brilliance by Lisa de Vanna and Lauren Barnes to set the two grand finalists apart, and have the 2,504 in attendance witnessing history.

Victory coach David Edmondson made just the one change from his team that defeated Sydney FC in the semi-final the week prior, Katie Hoyle replacing Ella Mastrantonio in midfield. Wide midfield dynamo Enza Barilla and Mastrantonio were added to the bench. Having successfully experimented with Jess Fishlock as as a striker, Beattie Goad as a first-choice winger and the free-scoring Caitlin Friend on the bench, there were no surprises to the line-up.

Belinda Wilson sent the same side and squad to Melbourne, much like the Victory, taking a no surprises approach to the big day. The squad was one rich in home grown talent and one that boasts eight Matildas in its ranks.

The match started off with both teams just testing each other out, but it was Victory who did have the better of the early battles, unlucky to not get one in the back of the net early. The effervescent Fishlock was an ever-present threat for Brisbane centre-backs Brooke Spence and Kim Carroll, her pass assisting de Vanna's shot that forced a fine save from Nadine Angerer early.

Brisbane held their nerve throughout the opening twenty minutes, and that was to be expected through their centre-backs and quality midfield that was led by Katrina Gorry. Some half-chances came from long-range shots from Gorry, while Melbourne custodian Brianna Davey comfortably dealt with attacks in her area.

Victory is ours! Players and fans get a taste of that championship winning feeling. Photos: ANITA MILAS

The wait for an opener was not long, however. At the thirty-eighth minute, attacking midfielder turned striker Jess Fishlock collected the ball to play a delightful chipped through-ball to de Vanna. Victory's star winger made no mistake as she finished truly past Angerer.

The goal made David Edmondson's side grow in confidence, sensing blood in the water as they continued to press forward. Brisbane did venture forward multiple times, only for Victory's defence to repel them and start attacks of their own.

The game still hung in the balance, and it was Victory who rose to the challenge. Lauren Barnes saved the best for what turned out to be the last goal of the W-League season, her ferocious strike from a way away from the box just minutes before half-time firing over Angerer's head and into the net.

The match was just one moment from being over as a contest; all Victory would need to do was make it happen, they certainly had the players to do it. Brisbane was not not willing to let that happen however, as they looked well organised and able to deal with what Victory were doing going forward. Unfortunately for the visiting Roar, so were their hosts as they saw off any potential Brisbane second-half challenge.

Victory's best chance for a 3-0 lead came late on in the half from a de Vanna cross that was met by Gülcan Koca, only for the Turkish national team midfielder to head the ball just narrowly past the left post. A tense final ten minutes played out in typical cup final fashion, and with their vocal home crowd who provided a carnival atmosphere throughout behind them, Melbourne Victory saw it out and earned their first title.

For Victory, the win put away the hurt of last season's Grand Final loss and earned them the ultimate redemption. Edmondson has left Melbourne Victory a strong squad that is very young and can dominate for years ahead, with two of its stars in Catley and Friend heading overseas for the ultimate experience of American and English football.

For Brisbane, their record regardless of this loss stands out among the pack, having made five grand finals for two wins. The club has a record of success and it would be foolish to suggest they can't rebound from this.

The season has been fantastic and one to remember, the Grand Final provided a fitting end.

Grand Final

Melbourne Victory 2
(Lisa De Vanna 38', Lauren Barnes 41')
Brisbane Roar 0
Sunday 23 February 2014
Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne
Referee: Casey Reibelt
Attendance: 2,504

Melbourne Victory: Brianna Davey (Gk), Jessica Humble, Katie Hoyle (Emily Hulbert 77'), Stephanie Catley, Jessica Fishlock, Lisa De Vanna, Jessica Samuelsson, Emma Checker, Beattie Goad (Enza Barilla 92'), Gulcan Koca (Ella Mastrantonio 68'), Lauren Barnes
Substitutes – Cassandra Dimovski (Gk), Caitlin Friend
Cautions – Ella Mastrantonio 71', Lisa De Vanna 89'

Brisbane Roar: Nadine Angerer (Gk), Laura Alleway, Brooke Spence, Kim Carroll, Elise Kellond-Knight, Katrina Gorry, Vedrana Popovic (Sunny Franco 83'), Tameka Butt, Hayley Raso, Emily Gielnik (Larissa Crummer 58'), Ayesha Norrie (Joanne Burgess 46')
Substitutes – Kate Stewart (Gk), Clare Polkinghorne
Cautions – Elise Kellond-Knight 37'

They can dominate women's football for a long time – Edmondson

Shaun Moran reports Westfield W-League championship winning coach Dave Edmondson is elated with his side overcoming the odds and capturing its inaugural title

Hard work and unyielding determination proved the overarching factor according to Melbourne Victory's championship winning coach following his side's 2-0 win against Brisbane Roar.

The Victory had history against it coming into the fixture, having never beaten the Roar since the inception of the national women's competition, and took the pitch on the back of a 1-0 loss to the same opposition only a fortnight earlier.

The first fixture of the season which saw Melbourne humbled at the hands of Sydney FC seemed light-years away on the league's days of days, courtesy of a major transformation on and off the pitch over the course of four months.

The marked improvement witnessed since that first match is what pleased their coach Dave Edmondson the most.

"It's obviously a great feeling to have won and that first game probably makes it even better," he said. "We added to the squad from that first game and we've put a lot of work in since that first game and I said to the girls before the game that hard work wins you games of football.

"We worked hard this year – we trained four or five nights a week. We didn't have any time off over Christmas and New Year's. They put the work in and you get the results of hard work. And today they've got that result in the best possible way in a home grand final."

Lisa De Vanna and Player of the Grand Final, Jessica Fishlock were nothing short of instrumental in the win, with the pair linking up for the opening goal, leaving Edmondson with nothing but praise for them.

"They have a massive effect [on the team],"he affirmed.

"Their effect is bigger than what they do on game day. They have a massive effect during the week and show a level of professionalism and show the local girls what it means to be a professional football player."

With the Englishman departing Australia's shores as he takes up a role with English women's side Bristol, he was asked as to how important he felt it was to hold onto the duo going forward.

Edmondson was forthright in his response, saying he is adamant that the squad will continue to grow and taste success no matter the case.

"Whether they come back or not, there are other players around," he continued.

"It would be great to keep all of these players, but it's just as important to keep the Bri Daveys, Emma Checkers and Steph Catley as well as your internationals.

"They're a fantastic bunch who back each other up. There's a great team spirit and I think that these girls can now go on and dominate women's football for a good spell of time."

Two players from the championship winning side will now embark on a new adventure as they both leave Australia for the first time to ply their trade.

The victorious 'skipper, Steph Catley departs for the United States, where she will link up with new teammates at the reigning American NWSL champions Portland Thorns, while Caitlin Friend jets off to play with Notts Country Ladies in the FA Women's Super League.

Edmondson believes that both individual and team will benefit from their respective moves.

"Steph is massively impressive," he said.

Her job as captain this year and her quality at every single session and game is fantastic. To have the opportunity to play overseas is going to be great for her. And it shows her commitment to her future.

"Caity's done the same. She's looked at it and thought, if I want to match the De Vanna's and Fishlock's, then I've got to challenge myself. It won't be easy for them – they won't have the same support networks that they've had here.

"I think it'll only help this time when they come back by the end of the year having experienced a real professional environment and a top quality league."

Follow Shaun on Twitter @ MoranShaun

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Vic Vipers take top honours

Men's NIKE V-League

On a big day for the title race it opened with Fitzroy needing a win over Ashburton to keep their slim chances of a title alive.

A tense first half was so even nothing could separate the two sides with the score deadlocked at 2-2.

For long period's the game was locked at 3-3 until the final 3 minutes when young Fitzroy pocket rocket Ben Monteleone bagged a 3 minute hat trick to break Ashburton hearts.

With an FAFL cup place up for grabs Metropolitan and Pascoe Vale would leave everything on the court in their quest for glory. Metropolitan stunned the favourites taking a 1-0 lead through Dino Redzepovic and holding that right up until the middle of the second half when finally they cracked conceding to an Andre Caro strike and from there the floodgates opened as Pascoe piled on the scoreboard pressure to crush Metropolitan 5-1 in the end and all but secure a place in April's FAFL Cup.

With the Vipers only needing 2 points from 2 games to seal the title they looked in an ominous mood come their match against Hume, despite missing Futsalroo Adam Cooper who was away on international duties it didn't seem to halt the Vipers juggernaut as they took a 2-1 half time lead.

The second half was a complete mismatch the Vipers going from strength to strength bagging 4 unanswered goals as the win took them to their 3rd NIKE V-League Premiership one they thoroughly deserved after a near flawless season. Last up was the clash of the cellar dwellers when Mickleham took on Albert Park in a game that was heavily favouring 7th placed Mickleham.

The first half was hardly a contest as the Bee's raced out to a 4-2 lead on the back of striker Lachlan Campbell's 2 goals.

The second half got even worse for Albert Park as Mickleham new boy Hamid Hassanikhoo rediscovered his form in his first game for Mickleham bagging 2 goals and and assist as they cruised to a 9-2 win.,

Women's PEPSI WPL

To kick off round 19 of the Women's V--League Heidelberg took on Ashburton in what looked a very close game on paper and even closer on the court as Ashburton held a slender at 3-2 lead at the half.

Some stern words from Heidelberg coach Alex Schiff and his side turned the tide to hit 2 unanswered second half goals to gain a confidence building win. Next up was a title defying game between Pascoe Vale and Richmond.

It was Pascoe who got off to the better start going into half time leading 2-0 thanks to goals from Sarah Richardson and Adelaide import Jamilla Hull having their side in pole position.

It was no different in the second half as Hull added her second and youngster Naomie Mackie got a late goal to seal the win. Another game that could potentially shake up the title race Melbourne Uni and Fitzroy did battle and in a tight first half it was Fitzroy who lead the way 2-1 with goals from Vatcky and Dade cancelling out Grace Kim's strike.

Fitzroy got away from Melbourne in the second half leading 5-2 with Vatcky getting her second, Natasha Rooney and an own goal from Tracey Tran all but certainly sealing the points. There was still a late fightback in Melbourne with a double from Marques and Cook but they fell just short as the title race was blown wide open.

Final game of Round 19 saw a struggling Vipers take on in form EFA Eagles. The Eagles held a slender 2-1 half time lead thanks to goals from Norbury and ALberti overriding Kat Smith's stirke. A closer second half as the shares were spoiled With Benoit levelling the score only for Alberti to win the game with a stunning strike to continue the Eagles charge towards FOz Cup place.

Pascoe Vale's Joao Da Silva (R) celebrates scoring the final goal of the game with Matteo Rocca.

Heidelberg's Elly Torre (L) and Maree Vouthas celebrate late in the second half after going into the lead.

The Vipers have been more than deserving of the title this season, after narrowly missing the relegation playoff last season it really is a zero to hero story.

Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Vic Vipers FC	20	17	3	0	0	124	67	+57	51
2 Fitzroy FC	19	14	4	0	1	134	70	+64	43
3 Pascoe Vale FC	19	12	5	0	2	110	57	+53	38
4 Metropolitan FC	19	11	5	0	3	143	94	+49	36
5 Hume FC	20	7	10	0	3	102	81	+21	24
6 Ashburton FC	19	7	10	0	2	103	94	+9	23
7 Mickleham FC	20	3	15	0	2	81	144	-63	11
8 Albert Park FC	20	0	19	0	1	46	236	-190	1

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Melbourne Uni FC	18	13	3	0	2	105	35	+70	41
2 FC Richmond	17	13	3	0	1	81	52	+29	40
3 Fitzroy FC	19	11	6	0	2	78	72	+6	35
4 Pascoe Vale FC	16	11	4	0	1	69	24	+45	34
5 Vic Vipers FC	18	5	10	0	3	49	59	-10	18
6 Ashburton FC	17	4	11	0	2	58	91	-33	14
7 EFA Eagles	16	4	12	0	0	36	85	-49	12
8 Heidelberg FC	17	2	14	0	1	43	101	-58	7

State League Championship

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Balwyn	19	14	3	0	2	125	70	+55	44
2 CF Brunswick	19	12	1	0	6	109	68	+41	42
3 Moreland FC	19	8	9	0	2	93	89	+4	26
4 FC Carlton	20	7	9	0	4	95	91	+4	25
5 Brimbank FC	19	7	9	0	3	105	139	-34	24
6 FC Melbourne	19	7	11	0	1	102	90	+12	22
7 FC Northcote	18	6	9	0	3	72	90	-18	21
8 FC Essendon	19	4	14	0	1	64	128	-64	13

State League One

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Collingwood	20	15	3	0	2	114	51	+63	47
2 Brighton FC	20	13	3	0	4	110	61	+49	43
3 FC Prahran	20	9	5	0	6	98	71	+27	33
4 CF South Melb	20	10	8	0	2	108	92	+16	32
5 FC Hawthorn	20	9	9	0	2	90	103	-13	29
6 Toorak FC	20	6	10	0	4	70	96	-26	22
7 FC Footscray	20	5	14	0	1	79	119	-40	16
8 Coburg Athletic	20	2	17	0	1	60	136	-76	7

State League Two

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Preston	20	14	5	0	1	91	69	+22	43
2 Doncaster FC	20	13	5	0	2	98	71	+27	41
3 Mcleod FC	20	13	5	0	2	101	83	+18	41
4 FC Richmond	20	9	9	0	2	104	106	-2	29
5 Eagles FC	20	9	10	0	1	92	101	-9	28
6 FC Geelong	20	7	12	0	1	102	90	+12	22
7 Elsternwick FC	20	5	14	0	1	67	87	-20	16
8 FC St Kilda	20	5	15	0	0	87	112	-25	15

Fitzroy's American star Jeremy Ortiz (Far Right) embraces match winner Ben Monteleone after completing his hat trick.

Futsal Oz Scoreboard

PEPSI Women's V-League

Results

Ashburton FC 3-4 Heidelberg FC
Pascoe Vale FC 4-0 FC Richmond
Melbourne Uni FC 4-5 Fitzroy FC
Vic Vipers FC 2-3 EFA Eagles

NIKE Men's V-League

Results

Fitzroy FC 6-4 Ashburton FC
Metropolitan FC 1-5 Pascoe Vale FC
Hume FC 1-6 Vic Vipers FC
Mickleham FC 9-2 Albert Park FC

Next Round

Womens - 28th February
6:30pm - Fitzroy FC vs Metr FC (Mens)
7:30pm - Melb Uni FC vs Ashburton
8:15pm - EFA Eagles vs FC Richmond
9:00pm - Pascoe Vale vs Ashburton (Mens)
9:45pm - Heidelberg vs Pascoe Vale
10:30pm - Fitzroy vs Vic Vipers

Mens - 25th February
5:00pm - Fitzroy FC vs Hume FC
6:00pm - Vic Vipers FC vs Ashburton
7:00pm - Albert Park vs Pascoe Vale
8:00pm - Ashburton FC vs Metropolitan

Top Goal Scorers

Women's

1. Marcela Marques - Melb Uni - 38
2. Dani Gudelj - Fitzroy FC - 18
3. Letizia Sammut - Melb Uni FC - 15
4. Niki Cook - Melbourne Uni FC - 15
5. Ili Jakab - Pascoe Vale FC - 13

Mens

1. Ricardo Castro - Ashburton FC - 39
2. Juso Julardzija - Metro FC - 37
3. Ernie Simsek - Metro FC - 31
4. Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC - 26
5. Fernando De Moraes - Fitzroy FC - 25

Welcome to FUTSAL OZ™ Our Programs

Social League competitions
• Men's & Women's Social Leagues
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Mixed Social Leagues
Create a team with men & women (min 2 women)
• Junior Leagues (boys & girls)
(5 to 18 year olds)
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Elite Leagues (boys & girls)
Only for elite players –

Training
• Social League training
for teams & individuals – improve skills & fitness, including goal keeper training
• Elite training
high level training includes goal keeper training
• Junior training
from beginners to elite
(see 'ALL Juniors – Boys & Girls 'from 2 years to 16 years of age')

Juniors
• Preschool program
Fun way to start the ball rolling during school hours (1 to 5 year olds)
• Junior Oz Clinics
Beginners introduction to Futsal (3 to 9 years old)
• School Holiday Program
Every school holidays Futsal all day training & games
• Social Junior Leagues
Create a team, for fun weekly scheduled matches (Mixed boys & Girls)

Elite Juniors
• Futsal training
INNER City FC for teams & individuals– skills, tactics & match (twice a week + match)
• Elite Futsal League
Join an elite Club, elite skills, technic, tactics & fitness, includes representative squads interstate and overseas tournaments.
• Elite Futsal training
high level training includes goal keeper training

Follow the V LEAGUE Premiership
And the pepsi WV LEAGUE Premiership
futsaloz.com.au
1300 788 799

Couch Potato * ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 2nd Legs
Tottenham v Dnipro 6:55am LIVE
Valencia v Dynamo Kiev 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Fiorentina v Esbjerg 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Genk v Anzhi 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Benfica v PAOK 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Ludogorets v Lazio 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 23 Preview Show 5:20pm 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 2nd Leg Highlights Show 5:50pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH
Bundesliga Round 23 Hertha Berlin v Freiburg 6:25am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 28 Hibernian v Dundee United 6:45am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Copa Libertadores 2nd Stage Matchday 4 Highlights Show 12:10pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 33 QPR v Leeds 11:10pm LIVE

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH
Bundesliga Round 23 Bayern Munich v Schalke 4:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 23 Leverkusen v Mainz 8:20am 1st Airing
Scottish League 1 Round 27 East Fife v Rangers 10:10am 1st Airing

MONDAY 3RD MARCH
Capital One Cup Final Man City v Sunderland 12:50am LIVE
Primera Division Round 5 TBC v TBC 8:10am LIVE
Primera Division Round 5 TBC v TBC 11:10am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 23 Hoffenheim v Wolfsburg 1:40pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 23 Frankfurt v Stuttgart 3:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 23 Highlights Show 5:20pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 33 Highlights Show 5:50pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 4TH MARCH
Sky Bet League Two Round 34 Chesterfield v Portsmouth 6:40am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 28 Highlights Show 5:20pm 1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH
Capital One Cup Final Highlights Show 5:20pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH
International Friendly England v Denmark 6:45am LIVE

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH
Primera Division Round 6 TBC v TBC 11:10am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 24 Preview Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH
Sky Bet League Two Round 35 Bury v Rochdale 6:40am LIVE

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH
Sky Bet Championship Round 34 TBC v TBC 2:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Scottish Cup Quarter-Final Raith v St Johnstone 1:35pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 34 Blackburn v Burnley 11:25pm LIVE

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
All times AEDT
All games LIVE unless stated

WEEK 29
Sun Mar 2 Fulham v Chelsea
1.50 am Fox 1

Sat Mar 2 Everton v West Ham
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Mar 2 Hull v Newcastle
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Mar 2 Stoke v Arsenal
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Mar 2 Southampton v Liverpool
4.20 am Fox 1

Mon Mar 3 Tottenham v Cardiff
3.20 am Fox 1

Mon Mar 3 Swansea v Crystal Palace
3.20 am Viewers Choice

Mon Mar 3 Aston Villa v Norwich
3.20 am Viewers Choice

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
ALL GAMES LIVE ON FOX 1

Thu Feb 27 Adelaide v Wellington
7.30 pm Fox 3

Fri Feb 28 Brisbane v Perth
8.00 pm Fox 1

Sat Mar 1 Central Coast v Sydney
5.30 pm Fox 1

Sat Mar 1 Melb Heart v Melb Victory
7.45 pm Fox 1

Sun Mar 2 Wanderers v Newcastle
5.00 pm Fox 1

SUNDAY SHOOT OUT
Every Sunday 7.00pm

SANTO, SAM & ED'S TOTAL FOOTBALL
Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

SPANISH LA LIGA
Mon Mar 3 Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid
2.55 am Fox 3

Mon Mar 3 Barcelona v Almeria
6.55 am Fox 1

SBS

SBS ONE
Evey Friday
7:30 pm A-League Live

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Highlights Show

SBS TWO
Every Monday
8:30 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday
5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

That was the perfect weekend! Melbourne Victory scored a clean sweep of wins amongst their three teams. The women's team managed to create history by beating Brisbane Roar for the first time in six seasons and over eleven games to claim their first premiership title. The first team played in one of the best games ever seen in the A-League against traditional rivals Adelaide United. While the National Youth League Victory team had a massive 5-2 win over Adelaide United. Ultimately, it was all about the incredible achievement by the women's team in winning their first W-League title.

The Melbourne derby on Saturday night is suddenly looking like it will be a classic. Victory is coming off one of the best wins and games in A-League history against Adelaide. It was great to see Archie Thompson get back on the scorers list.

Victory will be hoping to have Rogic in the team after his injury scare last weekend.

While Heart are having an amazing run of good form and results including last week's win over premiership favourites Brisbane Roar. They have been playing great football and getting the results that had eluded them in the first half of the season.

This will be a very psychical contest and there will be cards given out by the referee. Hopefully Kevin Muscat can manage his squad well to be in top shape following their Asian Champions League match on Wednesday night.

Heart will look to exploit any tired legs of Victory with plenty of speed up forward with David Williams sure to cause a headache for the defence. Victory will find a way to get up against the cross town rivals.

Central Coast Mariners and Sydney FC will be another great game to help determine the final six to play finals football. Central Coast is coming off a five game losing streak including their opening match in the Asian Champions League against FC Seoul. They are desperate to get back in the winners circle and climb back up the ladder.

Sydney had a bad run for a couple of weeks but winning one match put them back into fourth spot, such is the inconsistency of most teams in the A-League this season. If they play at their best, Sydney can beat Central Coast. However given the Mariners recent form, they have to pull their heads out at some point and this match will be it. Central Coast will scrape through a tough game and manage a 1-nil victory.

In the EPL this weekend, Southampton versus Liverpool on Sunday has the potential to be an absolute cracker. Liverpool are sitting pretty in fourth but they cannot let the three points slip against Southampton. A win here ensures Liverpool stay in the top four and possibly reach a higher position. A loss leaves them open to falling down the ladder. Liverpool have all the right tools to get the win in this one, 2-1 the final score.

Once the weekend's action is over make sure to tune into SBS for The A-League Highlights Show hosted by Craig Foster and The World Game on Monday night. Get your comedy gold fix with Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football over on Foxtel. Thursday FC is your option for light entertainment on Thursday night on SBS.

Enjoy plenty of football action this weekend and hopefully your team wins.

Blast From The Past

By Alvaro Rodriguez

Photos: Les Shorrock Collection, Deakin University

Footscray JUST

Footscray JUST team photo from 1987. Founded in the early 1950s, JUST were five-time Victorian state champions and three-time Dockerty Cup winners; 1974 Socceroos Jim Milisavljevic, Peter Ollerton, Branko Buljevic and Doug Utjesenovic are just four of the contingent to have played for Australia during the club's 40-year history. Due to the club's pan-Yugoslav identity, over time it struggled to attract new generations of Balkan-heritage supporters who felt more attached to clubs of individual-national identity such as Melbourne Knights. This, coupled with poor on-field results at the end of the '80s eventually sounded the club's death-knell. Newcastle Jets favourite Gary Van Egmond is third from left in the back row of the photo.

Eddie Krncevic

Eddie Krncevic in the colours of Belgian powerhouse Anderlecht. The first Australian to embark on a lengthy professional career in continental Europe during the '80s-'90s (which saw him play for Dinamo Zagreb, MSV Duisburg and Cercle Brugge among others), Eddie also played 35 times/scored 17 goals for Australia in his career. Younger Oz football fans would best know him as Carlton SC's foundation coach during the AFL-backed NSL club's brief existence in the late '90s.

Coerver Coaching Youth Diploma Course

Coerver Coaching Melbourne recently conducted the Coerver Coaching Diploma in Youth Development at Parade College in Bundoora. The course was led by Coerver Co-Founder and Chelsea FC legend Charlie Cooke. Forty participants ranging from pro coaches to grassroots coaches attended the course over two days.

Licensee for Coerver Coaching Melbourne North-East Dieter Svoboda said "I thought the delivery of the youth diploma, coupled with the fantastic venue at Parade College, resulted in one of the best Youth Diploma courses I've been lucky to attend.

The feedback from everyone involved, which included some repeat participants, has been incredible. Charlie Cooke's energy and passion spilled out into his descriptive sessions and the planning seminar was also greatly received by all.

Coerver Melbourne North East would like to thank all the coaches who participated, just shows the dedication coaches have in improving the skill quality of our junior players in order to create our future stars.

This will certainly help our Melbourne licensees in identifying potential staff coaches who will be influential in our continuous growth. We are extremely grateful!"

For further information on Coerver Coaching courses please visit www.coerver.com.au

Vale Gordon Nutt (8 Nov 1932 – 25 Feb 2014)

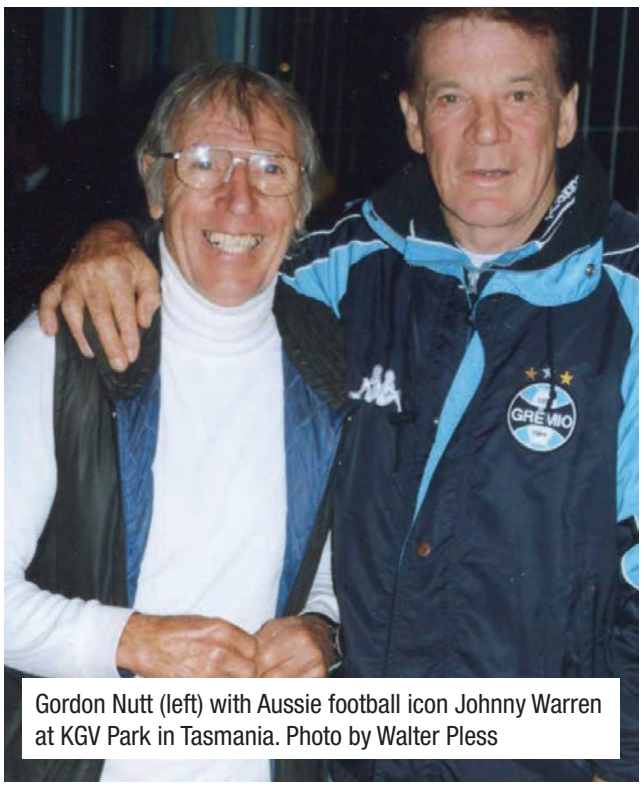
TAS

WALTER PLESS

The former Arsenal winger, Gordon Nutt, has passed away at Cygnet in Tasmania at the age of 81.

Gordon also played for Cardiff City, Coventry City, PSV Eindhoven and Southend United. He represented the English FA on a tour of the Caribbean in the 1950s. Gordon made 189 league appearances in England and scored 32 goals. He was born in South Yardley, Birmingham on 8 November 1932. He moved from Coventry City to Cardiff City in 1954 for a fee of 12,000 pounds but stayed only a year before being sold to Arsenal. He made his debut for Arsenal on 24 September 1955 against Sunderland. Gordon played 51 times for Arsenal and scored 10 goals for the Gunners.

I was first introduced to Gordon in the early 1990s by Dennis McCauley, who was for a brief time, CEO of the Tasmanian Soccer Federation. Dennis and Gordon ran the very successful and well-organised Tasmanian Soccer Schools, based at The Hutchins School in Sandy Bay. I recall attending a barbecue for Gordon's birthday when he and his family were living at Old Beach.



Gordon Nutt (left) with Aussie football icon Johnny Warren at KGV Park in Tasmania. Photo by Walter Pless

Roger Ferguson - father of Tilford Zebras goalkeeper, Matthew - also attended. He had just returned from London and presented Gordon with a large framed photograph of a 360 degree view of the Emirates Stadium, signed by Arsene Wenger and the entire Arsenal squad. There were many sepia photos outlining Gordon's football career on the walls of the rooms of Gordon's house.

Gordon often told me how exciting it was being a footballer in London in the 1950s. He recalled warmly the rail trips back to London after an away match in Manchester, for example, and the players hitting the nightspots on their return late at night. Gordon was in the Arsenal team that played Manchester United before a crowd of 63,578 at Highbury on 1 February, 1958. Manchester United won 5-4 and Gordon had two assists for Arsenal. It was the last time that people would see that great Manchester United side, the Busby Babes, which included Bobby Charlton and Duncan Edwards and was managed by Matt Busby. Five days later, the team was destroyed in an air crash in Munich on their way home from a European Cup match in Belgrade.

Gordon came to Australia in 1965, where he played for Sydney Croatia and Manly-Warringah before retiring. He came to Tasmania and ran a television and film lighting business and did some work for the ABC (look for his name in some of the credits) in this field, as well as running his Tasmanian Soccer Schools. He was assistant director of the Australian cult movie "Stone". Gordon was always approachable and was ready to offer his knowledge and service to local clubs and coaches. He was involved with Clarence United for a while and assisted with the coaching of the senior side.

He also worked with New Town Eagles for a while. He is survived by his wife Jenny and son Asher.

ACT

RUSS GIBBS

Dower appointed ACTAS Head Coach

Capital Football is pleased to announce the appointment of Raeanne Dower as the new Head Coach of the ACT Academy of Sport women's program.

Dower, a native of Brisbane, has played a distinguished part in the Youth Coaching scene of Queensland for a number of years having been Head Coach of the State Representative girls' teams at under-13, under-17 and under-18 levels. She was also Assistant Coach for Canberra United in Season Six of the Westfield W-League as the team was crowned Premiers.

"We are delighted that Rae is able to join the ACTAS program and the national training centre environment as Head Coach following her excellent work alongside Elisabeth Migchelsen with Canberra United this year," Capital Football CEO Heather Reid commented.

"Rae has proven to be an exceptional coach and leader in her role as Assistant with Canberra United and has many years of experience in coaching, developing and promoting female players in her home state of Queensland. Her appointment helps to consolidate the pathway between ACTAS and Canberra United which has been an integral part of our strategic technical and elite player pathway development."

Raeanne Dower

The AFC/FFA pro-Diploma candidate has been Head Coach and Technical Director of the highly successful Redlands United club who compete in the National Premier League: Queensland competition. Dower has also tasted international football having represented the Matildas in the Oceania Cup in 1989 following on from Australian Youth and Schoolgirl appearances.

Dower will officially start duties in mid-March but in the meantime she will work with Capital Football technical staff to finalise selections for the 15 scholarship holders for the 2014 ACTAS program.

NYL enters penultimate round of the season

Tomasz Ng

Foxtel National Youth League

With everything decided in the 2013/14 Foxtel National Youth League, teams were able to approach the penultimate round with free spirits and that translated into a bagful of goals.

The most entertaining match was between Melbourne Heart and Brisbane Roar at Epping Stadium, where there were ten individual goalscorers in a 7-4 thriller.

Heart had been on a goalscoring streak and continued that against the Roar.

Devante Clut and Steven Lustica scored great goals to actually give the visitors a lead, which was wiped out by Alexander Dao and Marcus Schroen before half time.

Brisbane quickly restored their two goal buffer with goals to Brandon Borrello and Jai Ingham, before a spell of three goals in as many minutes put the hosts in front for the first time.

Jeremy Walker scored a stunning effort, before Michael Mifsud equalised, and Hernan Espindola put them ahead from the spot.

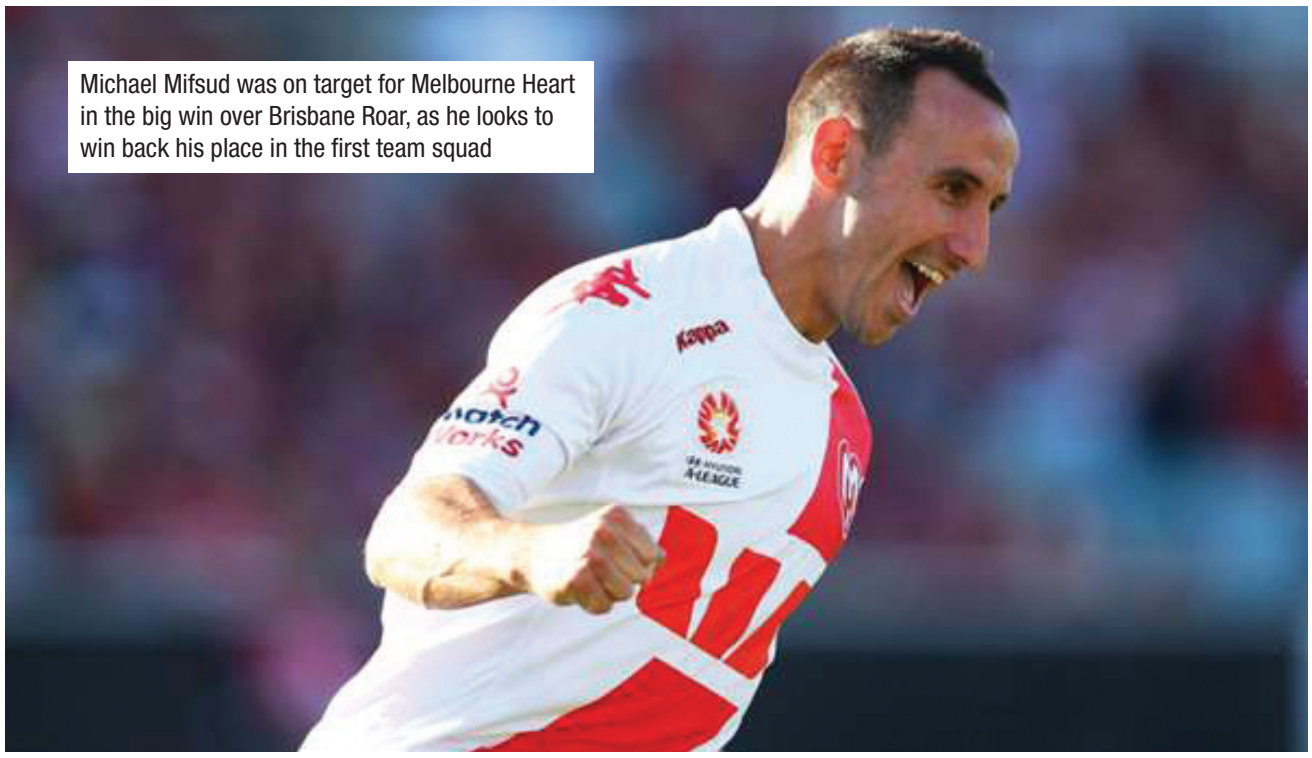
Ersin Kaya also scored, and the result was rounded off by Dao, who notched his brace four minutes from the end.

There was also plenty to talk about in Melbourne Victory's clash against Adelaide United, which ended 5-2 in favour of the home side.

Jimmy Jeggo put Victory into an early lead before Christopher Cristaldo missed a penalty.

Anthony Bouzalas made him pay with a fantastic solo effort, but Victory won another penalty before the break and this time, Francesco Stella sent the keeper the wrong way to restore the lead.

Victory turned the screws in the second half, scoring through Connor Pain and two to substitute Damien Miskulin.



Michael Mifsud was on target for Melbourne Heart in the big win over Brisbane Roar, as he looks to win back his place in the first team squad

Adelaide did score a consolation through Bruce Kamau, but with a bit more luck could've scored more had the woodwork not intervened on several occasions.

At the bottom of the league, Central Coast Mariners lost yet another game, this time to 1-0 to the AIS.

The institute side scored the winner in the 16th minute, when Anthony Kalik converted a spot kick.

Central Coast did hit the post in the first half, but they were ultimately not good enough to match the AIS, and continue to be rooted at the foot of the table.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Newcastle Jets pulled off an amazing 7-1 trouncing of newly crowned champions Sydney FC.

The Jets scored early when Rad van Pavicevic scored a cool finish after round a stranded Sydney goalkeeper, while James Brown and Joey Gibbs made it 3-0 just before the break.

They carried on in the second half, scoring again through Pavicevic and Gibbs, before the Sky Blues finally replied with a goal of their own, courtesy of Alec Urosevski.

Brown then scored two more late on to secure his hat trick, and ensured that Sydney were humiliated on the day.

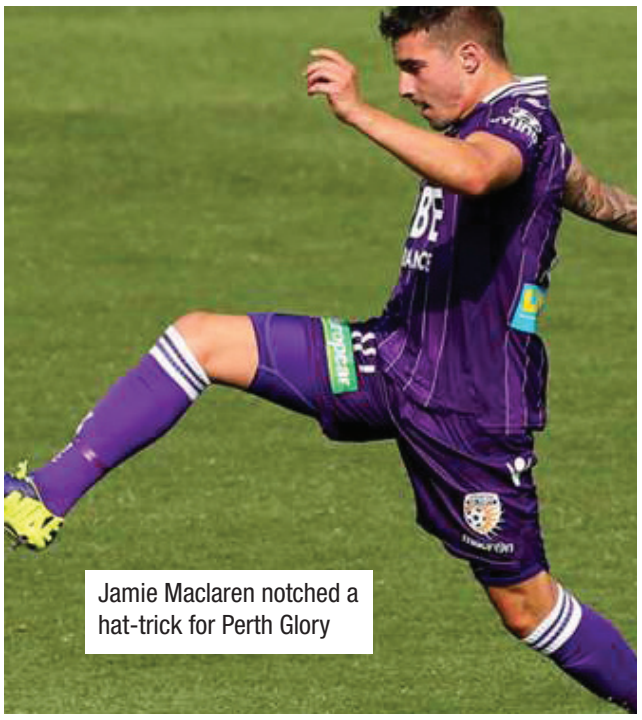
Finally, Perth Glory notched up just their fifth win of the season, beating Western Sydney Wanderers 4-1 at Intiga Stadium.

Jamie Maclaren was the star of the show, scoring another hat trick to give Perth a 3-0 lead on the hour.

However, their leaky defence showed fragility again when a mistake let Daniel Barresi in to pull one back for the visitors.

There was no comeback from the Wanderers though, and Adrian Zahra capped off a convincing win for the Glory.

With next week being the conclusion of the National Youth League, teams can once again play freely, hopefully scoring just as many goals.



Jamie Maclaren notched a hat-trick for Perth Glory

Next Round

Saturday, 1 March 2014
Adelaide United v Perth Glory
Parra Hills
KO 10:30 AM

Saturday, 1 March 2014
Wanderers v Melbourne Victory
Cook Park, St Marys
KO 3:00PM

Saturday, 1 March 2014
Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar
Wanderers Oval
KO 4:00PM

Sunday, 2 March 2014
Melbourne Heart v CC Mariners
Epping Soccer Stadium
KO 3:00 PM

Sunday, 2 March 2014
AIS v Sydney FC
AIS Grass 2
KO 3:00PM

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Sydney FC	17	13	1	3	49	29	20	40
2 Newcastle Jets	17	10	4	3	48	28	20	34
3 Melbourne Victory	17	9	3	5	49	35	14	30
4 Adelaide United	17	8	3	6	37	34	3	27
5 Melbourne Heart	17	7	4	6	36	28	8	25
6 Brisbane Roar	17	6	5	6	40	43	-3	23
7 Wanderers FC	17	7	1	9	36	32	4	22
8 AIS	17	6	2	9	32	47	-15	20
9 Perth Glory	17	5	0	12	33	63	-30	15
10 Mariners	17	1	3	13	18	39	-21	6

Results

Sydney FC 1 (Urosevski 82')
Newcastle Jets 7 (Pavicevic 6', 51', Brown 42', 83' 91', Gibbs 45, 68')

Perth Glory 4 (Maclaren 24m, 58m, 60m, Zahra 90m)
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Barresi 80m)

Melbourne Victory 5 (Jeggo 12' Stella 37'pen, Pain 48' Miskulin 66' 90+4')
Adelaide United 2 (Bouzalas 17', Kamau 89')

Melbourne Heart 7 (Dao 39' 86', Schroen 45', Walker 64', Mifsud 66', Espindola 67'pen, Kaya 79')
Brisbane Roar 4 (Clut 28', Lustica 37', Borello 50' Ingham 53')

Central Coast Mariners Youth 0
AIS 1 (Kalik 16p)

English Premier League

Nick Amies

As winter draws to a close for the Premier League the title race shows no sign of simplifying as the top four continued their respective challenges for the trophy with a win apiece.

Arsenal and Manchester City fought off potential Champions League hangover to secure contrasting victories over Sunderland and Stoke City. Arsene Wenger's side put in one of the best performances in recent weeks as they steamrolled the Black Cats, with Olivier Giroud particularly impressive with two goals and an assist to stay within touching distance of Chelsea. Manchester City were made to work harder for their points at the Etihad against a resolute Stoke City but their pressure eventually yielded a result as Yaya Toure grabbed the winner twenty minutes from time.

Chelsea almost fluffed their lines at home to Everton in the match of the round, finding it difficult to break down the experienced Toffees defence. In the end it was a late set piece and a pair of Chelsea legends that made the difference as Frank Lampard's wonderful delivery found the outstretched leg of John Terry to direct the ball past Tim Howard.

At the rear of the title contenders is Liverpool, who remain in the hunt for the title after a thrilling 4-3 win over Swansea at Anfield. Daniel Sturridge was the main threat up front with a brace, moving himelf within two goals of Luis Suarez's tally of 23 for the season, but Jordan Henderson also found the net twice to hand Garry Monk his first Premier League defeat as manager of the Welsh side.

Swansea's failure to win the points at Anfield means that they fail to clear themselves of the relegation battle, falling to twelfth after both West Ham and Hull City notched up impressive wins over Southampton and Cardiff. The Hammers continued their 100% record for the month with a 3-1 win care of goals from Matt Jarvis, Carlton Cole and Kevin Nolan, while Hull City's transfers continue to repay their value as Tom Huddelstone, Jake Livermore and Nikica Jelavic (2) found the back of the net in their emphatic 4-nil win in Wales.

West Bromwich and Fulham did themselves no favours as they drew 1-all at the Hawthorns, but Norwich scored a crucial victory over Tottenham at Carrow Road through a solitary goal from Robert Snodgrass. Spurs remain in fifth but can start to feel pressure from behind after both Manchester United and Newcastle grabbed solid wins over Crystal Palace and Aston Villa.

United's class shone through at Selhurst Park, with a penalty from Robin van Persie and a sublime strike from the newly re-signed Wayne Rooney securing the points, while the Magpies ended their poor run of home form with a late winner from Loic Remy to keep them marooned in the middle of the ladder.

John Terry comes to Chelsea's rescue with a very late winner against Everton

ENGLAND EPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Chelsea	27	18	6	3	49	21	+28	60	W D W W D
2 Arsenal	27	18	5	4	52	27	+25	59	W D L W D
3 Manchester City	26	18	3	5	69	27	+42	57	W D L W W
4 Liverpool	27	17	5	5	70	35	+35	56	W W W D W
5 Tottenham Hotspur	27	15	5	7	36	33	+3	50	L W W D L
6 Manchester United	27	13	6	8	43	31	+12	45	W D D L W
7 Everton	26	12	9	5	37	27	+10	45	L L W L D
8 Newcastle United	27	12	4	11	33	38	-5	40	W L L L D
9 Southampton	27	10	9	8	38	32	+6	39	L W D W D
10 West Ham United	27	8	7	12	31	34	-3	31	W W W W D
11 Hull City	27	8	6	13	29	31	-2	30	W L W D L
12 Swansea City	27	7	7	13	36	40	-4	28	L D W L W
13 Aston Villa	27	7	7	13	27	37	-10	28	L D L L W
14 Norwich City	27	7	7	13	20	39	-19	28	W L D L D
15 Stoke City	27	6	9	12	27	42	-15	27	L D D W L
16 Crystal Palace	26	8	2	16	18	36	-18	26	L W L W W
17 West Bromwich ...	27	4	13	10	31	39	-8	25	D D L D L
18 Sunderland	26	6	6	14	26	42	-16	24	L L W W D
19 Cardiff City	27	5	7	15	19	48	-29	22	L D L W L
20 Fulham	27	6	3	18	27	59	-32	21	D L D L L

Latest Results	Next Match
Chelsea 1 - 0 Everton	Everton v West Ham
Arsenal 4 - 1 Sunderland	Fulham v Chelsea
Cardiff City 0 - 4 Hull City	Hull City v Newcastle
Man City 1 - 0 Stoke City	Stoke City v Arsenal
WBA 1 - 1 Fulham	Sunderland PSTP WBA
West Ham 3 - 1 Southampton	Southampton v Liverpool
Crystal Palace 0 - 2 Ma Utd	Aston Villa v Norwich City
Liverpool 4 - 3 Swansea City	Swansea v Crystal Palace
Newcastle Utd 1 - 0 Aston Villa	Tottenham v Cardiff City
Norwich City 1 - 0 Tottenham	

One To Watch This Weekend...

Brendan Rodgers' entertainers face a stiffer test than their recent opponents as they travel to Southampton. The Saints have exhibited impressive steel in defence over the course of the season and possess enough of a threat in attack to score a few goals of their own; can Liverpool continue their title challenge and outscore their hosts?

EPL Preview

The make-or-break matches continue this weekend at both ends of the ladder but with Manchester City excused to compete in the Capital One Cup Chelsea and Arsenal need to take maximum points in their travels to Fulham and Stoke.

Craven Cottage's London Derby looms as a potential hindrance to Mourinho's men in the wake of their midweek Champions League exertions against Galatasaray, while Arsene Wenger will have taken note of Stoke's spirited display against Manchester City on the weekend. With a week to prepare and their impressive performance on the weekend to consider though it will be an uphill battle for Mark Hughes' side.

If Felix Magath can lead his team to victory against Chelsea they could jump above Cardiff City, who face a difficult trip to White Hart Lane on Sunday. Spurs will be looking to bounce back from their surprise defeat to Norwich, who meet former manager Paul Lambert at Villa Park in a relegation six-pointer. A win for either side will kick them clear of the bottom three, but anything less could see them overtaken by Crystal Palace, who travel to the Liberty Stadium to face Swansea. The Welsh side were valiant in their efforts against Liverpool and will be looking to take all three points at home, but surely Tony Pulis' side will provide a sterner rearguard than the Reds did last week at Anfield.

Everton will be eyeing a return to the winners circle after a difficult run as they host Sam Allardyce's in-form West Ham, who will be looking to propel themselves further into the safety of mid-table after four straight wins in February as will Hull City who host Newcastle United at the KC Stadium.

SPL Wrap

Celtic's 29-game unbeaten run in the Scottish Premiership came to an end after Tuesday's 2-1 defeat to second-placed Aberdeen.

The league leaders, who had Virgil van Dijk sent off in the 13th minute, were unable to come back after conceding two goals at the end of the first half and slipped to their first defeat of the season.

Jonny Hayes' 41st-minute strike gave Aberdeen the lead at Pittodrie, a goal that saw Celtic goalkeeper Fraser Forster fall 56 minutes short of breaking Edwin van der Sar's British record for the longest time spent without conceding.

Adam Rooney doubled Aberdeen's lead with a goal right on half-time, and although James Forrest pulled one back for Celtic the hosts were able to hang on for a memorable victory.

The result, which ended Celtic's unbeaten streak that stretched back to last season, cut the defending champions' lead to a still very healthy 21 points.

St Johnstone put back-to-back league defeats firmly behind them with a 3-0 win over Motherwell at McDiarmid Park, striker Steve MacLean grabbing two goals in the first half before Gary Miller added the third with five minutes to play.

Meanwhile, Inverness Caledonian Thistle moved back into fourth place with a 3-0 win over Ross County.

FA Cup

Hull City set up a quarter-final meeting with Sunderland in the FA Cup by beating Brighton and Hove Albion 2-1 in a fifth-round replay.

After drawing the first game 1-1, Hull never appeared in any real danger of losing the replay on Monday as they dominated for large periods against their Championship opponents.

In the other reply Simon Church's goal denied Sheffield Wednesday an FA Cup quarter-final with Sheffield United as Charlton Athletic won 2-1 at Hillsborough.

Quarter Final Draw

Arsenal v Everton
Sheffield Utd v Charlton Athletic
Hull City v Sunderland
Manchester City v Wigan Athletic

The London Eye

Eddie Gray in the UK

Sherwood Restores Spurs Style

Managerial changes have been the trend in the Premier League this year. Seven clubs are now with different bosses from what they started the season with.

In Fulham's case they are now with their third head coach since the beginning of the campaign. The majority of these sackings have come from owners who fear their side dropping down into the Championship – with six of the seven all in the bottom half of the league. But the one change that has occurred at the top end of the division came at Tottenham Hotspur.

Chairman Daniel Levy chose to rid of Andre Villas Boas despite the former Chelsea manger having a win ratio above 50%, a total higher than previous bosses Harry Redknapp, Martin Jol and Glen Hoddle. He also averaged the most points per league match of any Spurs manager since 1992 (1.83 per game) and in his only full season in charge he amassed 72 points – the highest amount not to qualify for the Champions League in Premier League history.

But heavy defeats to Manchester City and then at home to Liverpool proved too much for Levy who removed Boas, with Spurs seventh, and brought in Tim Sherwood – originally temporarily – before he later signed an 18 month deal. At the time of the Portuguese mans dismissal some fans were growing disillusioned with the defensive approach he was taking. Tottenham were struggling to score goals and the traditional forward thinking style seen at White Hart Lane had become a thing of the past. But one of the first actions Sherwood took was to restore an attacking impetuous that was waning under the previous regime, endearing him to the fans instantly.

Even though some thought Boas' removal was harsh there has been no doubt about the impact his replacement has had. Sherwood has revitalised his squad and has played a masterstroke in recalling the exiled Emanuel Adebayor. The Togolese striker – who had previously fallen heavily out of favour – has returned to the starting eleven and not only provided goals, which new signing Roberto Soldado has struggled to do since his £26 million transfer from Valencia in the summer, but added a desperately needed focal point to the Spurs attack.

As much of an influence Adebayor has been, the new head coach has also given a license to his attacking players to express themselves, breathing new confidence and fresh belief into their games. The likes of Aaron Lennon, Christian Eriksen and Moussa Dembele appear to have had their shackles removed – in particular the latter – with a greater freedom to roam and influence games in the final third, rather than sticking to a regimented formula. And it has worked. Sherwood has won seven of his 14 games in charge, along with two draws, and his new philosophy has got the Spurs fans fully back on side.

Another plus point under the new boss has been the emergence of Nabil Bentaleb – who played under Sherwood in the Tottenham development squad. The French under-19 international has been exceptional in the middle of midfield and has added a grit and determination that had been missing with the continued absence of Sandro. Not only has it been his individual performances that have stood out but also the way he has demonstrated how the youngsters in the Spurs set-up can make the step up. His seamless transition has shown the talent in the youth sides can be trusted at a higher level, which will be a hugely welcome sign for a financial prudent chairman like Levy.

Although things have largely been positive since Sherwood took over there are signs it may not be long term. Heavily respected Dutch manger Louis Van Gaal has declared his interest in working in England after the World Cup and he was strongly linked with the position after Boas' dismissal. If Spurs don't make the Champions League this term – they're currently six points adrift – then Sherwood's time could be numbered with Van Gaal already looking the prime candidate to take his position.

There are also indications Sherwood's 'honeymoon' period may be coming to an end. Tottenham's most recent loss to Norwich showed that when Adebayor is not at his best they still struggle to create enough chances to win games they should be comfortably ahead in. This was also the case in their 1-0 defeat to Dinipro Dnipropetrovsk in the last 32 stage of the Europa League. Without the Togo forward Spurs failed to score and were fortunate to come away from the first leg just one down.

Adjustments may also be required tactically against the 'better' teams in the country. Arsenal comfortably beat their North London rivals 2-0 in the FA Cup when the space left between midfield and defence was too great – Spurs went in with a two man central midfield – allowing Mesut Ozil and Santi Cazorla to pick up the ball far too easily in dangerous positions. But there is no doubt that playing without a defensive midfielder is working for Sherwood in the majority of other matches – as his record suggests.

If AVB were still in charge at Spurs who knows where they would be. Some believe they would be in the Champions League spots, others further adrift than they are now. But although some fans would be happy with picking up results unspectacularly there was a group who were becoming visibly disheartened at their style of play. That has disappeared under Sherwood. The supporters are well and truly back on board and Spurs have returned to their famous free-flowing approach.

The former Blackburn man is currently doing a good job at Spurs but a spot in Europe's biggest club competition is sliding away. If he fails to reach the top four and Levy choses to bring in a manger with stronger credentials, the majority of the White Hart Lane faithful will still fondly remember a coach who restored a familiar identity to their club. The same can't be said for Andre Villas Boas.

The scene on Merseyside

Derby Day Delights

With the Melbourne Derby taking centre stage in this week's Hyundai A-League, GW's **Christopher Hearn** takes a look at derbies around the world that capture the imagination of football fans.

AS Roma v Lazio
"Derby della Capitale"
In 1927, it was the intention of Fascist dictator Benito Mussolinito create a unified and powerful Roman club to challenge the dominance of Juventus, AC Milan and Internazionale. Lazio resisted the merger, and a rivalry was born. Since then, the rivalry has become one of the most colourful, and spiteful derbies in world football. Due to the right-wing politics that are so heavily involved in Rome's past, both teams set of 'ultra' fans are amongst the most dangerous in the continent.
When the teams met in 2004, a rumour was spread that a young boy was killed outside the stadium by police. The game was suspended as three leaders from AS Roma's 'Ultra's' were allowed onto the pitch to converse with Roma's star forward Francesco Totti. Reportedly, the supporter group threatened to murder everyone on the pitch unless the game was abandoned.

Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid
"El Derbi madrilengo"
This is a politically charged derby. Due to Real Madrid's ties with Spanish royalty, they are known as the establishment club, while Atleti's roots are connected with the working class demographic in the city.
The squads at this present time reflect the history of the fixture somewhat. Madrid seemingly have all the money in the world to buy the best talent, while Atleti manager Diego Simeone has been forced to operate on a shoe-string budget. That being said, they're currently three points adrift of their fierce rivals with 13 games to play. The "sentimiento de rebeldía", which translates to "a sense of rebellion" and is attributed to Atletico Madrid, is serving them well indeed.
The next meeting between these two clubs is on the 2nd of March in a contest that will go a long way to deciding the destination of the La Liga championship.

Liverpool v Everton
"The Merseyside derby"
Stanley Park separates Anfield and Goodison Park, a casual stroll of roughly 1.2km door-to-door. This is a 'local derby' in every sense of the word.
Since the inception of the Premier League, no fixture has seen more red cards. Despite the foul play on the field, it is referred to as the 'Friendly Derby' because of the fans nature towards the opposition supporters. It is a common sight to see Liverpool fans sitting in a sea of blue, and vice versa.
Former Liverpool forward Ian Rush is top-scorer in this fixture with 25 goals, who leads Dixie Dean (19), Alex Young (9) and current Liverpool skipper, Steven Gerrard (8).
An interesting bit of trivia regarding this fixture - Liverpool have made more transfer dealings with Everton than any other club.

Boca Juniors v River Plate
"Superclasico"
This fixture has it all. Fireworks, dancing, roaring crowds, late tackles, spectacular banners and even better attacking football.
River and Boca were founded in 1901 and 1905 respectively in La Boca, a working class area of Buenos Aires. However, in 1925, River moved their headquarters to Nunez, a much more affluent part of town. This created a rivalry between the classes, and taunts have been created over the years to reflect this.
River fans refer to Boca fans as los chanchito's (little pigs) because they claim their stadium, situated in a lesser area compared to Nunez, smells badly. Boca fans refer to River fans as gallinas (chickens) referring to the lack of courage of River players.

Red Star Belgrade v Partizan Belgrade
This has long been recognised as one of the biggest derbies in all of world football, and easily the fiercest in Eastern Europe.
This fixture has a long history of crowd trouble, and if sections of the Australian public think A-League fans are poorly behaved - read this next sentence. In 2004 during a Belgrade derby match, segregated fans began hurling flares at one another, and then started bonfires in the stands, around which fans continued singing and watching the match. The match was abandoned for 10 minutes, but Red Star eventually prevailed 1-0 thanks to a bizarre own goal from Milan Obradovic.
Partizan just edge the overall statistics, however winning 70 times to Red Star's 60, with only five draws in the fixtures history.

Boca Juniors v River Plate

Bingham joins Fury revolution

Harry Bingham is off to Queensland to join Northern Fury. Photo: DARRY KENNEDY.

By NEVIS RANGE

THE football revolution underway in northern Queensland has gained impetus with the prize signature of former VIS and Victorian NTC head coach Harry Bingham.
Bingham is Northern Fury's new technical director and has inked a three-year deal that can be renegotiated if Fury regains A-League status.
He flies to Townsville in the next few days and the former Football Queensland director of coaching and Fiji national coach is thrilled with the move and the prospect of again working with Fury's director of coaching Ian Ferguson.
"We met when I was working for FFA on coaching courses and a whole batch of A-League guys came through including Ian, Kevin Muscat and Lawrie McKinna," said Bingham.
"Ian and I have kept in touch since and I'm looking forward to working with him on a full-time basis."
The respect is mutual.
"There were a few people we had in mind but Harry has the credentials as well for coaching the coaches," Ferguson said.
"When I did my coaching course down in Canberra, he was one of those coaches that taught me and I really liked the way he delivered and he came across very well.
"He's got his Pro Licence which is great as well so he's going to be the highest credentialed coach at the club. Everybody will benefit from it."
Bingham is the latest in a series of canny appointments by club chairman Rabieh Krayem, the man who engineered Fury's ownership model which gives a majority stake in the club to supporters.
Krayem has had a long career in the sport and recruitment sectors, including as CEO of NRL franchise North Queensland Cowboys and runs his own recruitment services company with operations in Townsville, the Gold Coast and Sydney.
He delivered the prize scalp of former Rangers and Scotland international midfielder Ferguson last year, followed last December by the appointment of high profile former FFA staffer Bonita Mersiadis.
Mersiadis has headed FFA's corporate and public affairs department and is a renowned mover and shaker.
Her Australia-wide contacts will underpin her management of Northern Fury's case for future admission into the top-flight competition and her brief is to harness the support of local, state and federal governments as well as the A-League's 10 current clubs.
"It's a stakeholder engagement role," said Mersiadis.
"It's about selling that message, promoting that message, to people who are not here in north Queensland … that don't understand the spirit around the Northern Fury.
"It's important for key stakeholders in the game, whether they be FFA, A-League clubs, people in government or media in other parts of Australia, to understand the Fury means business.
"The Fury are here to stay."
Next A-League season Fury will field a youth team in the national competition and a women's team in the W-League.
The club plans to be at the forefront of re-entry to the elite level of club competition when FFA decides to expand and the youth and women's teams will cement the groundwork for the senior men's side's inclusion in the A-League which is expected in 2018 but may come as early as 2016.
FFA's recent decision to extend the licences of the nine Australian-based clubs to 2034 leaving Wellington Phoenix facing a licence expiry date of 2016 has cast doubt on the federation's plans for the NZ outfit.
Bingham's role will be to deliver coaching education based on the National Curriculum and he'll also have input into assembling the youth and women's squads.
"I'm really looking forward to it. It's something I can get my teeth into and I'm sure anyone working in football would appreciate how few opportunities there are at this level and how fortunate I am," said Bingham.
"I'll be in charge of the coaching staff from the under-20s down and I think Ian will take both the NPL squad and the youth squad.
"The club is really gearing towards getting back into the elite level and when they do you could find that they'll be the first A-League club to have juniors.
"I think there are some exciting times ahead."

JONATAN GERMANO

MELBOURNE HEART FC

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Italian Serie A

Luca Cetta

Tevez keeps Turin black & white

It was the most eagerly anticipated Turin Derby in two decades. When it was all said and done, Juventus retained their city supremacy.

'Top Derby' was the headline sprawled across Sunday's Tuttosport. The Turin-based newspaper, like the city, was ready for the showdown. It would be a Derby della Mole like no other in the past 20 years. Juventus have streaked clear in Serie A this term, while their local rivals are enjoying their best season since the early 1990s. Torino went into the Derby just three points outside of the European places.

Under Emiliano Mondonico two decades ago, the Granata were regular top-half finishers. They also lifted their last trophy to date. Following a defeat on away goals by Ajax in the Final of the 1991-92 UEFA Cup, Torino triumphed by the same scenario a season later in the Coppa Italia against Roma.

What they also did in the early 1990s was claim city bragging rights. A season after Mondonico left the Granata enjoyed a double over Juve. "We know the derby is always a different type of game. I remember the year [1994-95] when we won the title but lost both games against Torino," recalled Juventus boss Antonio Conte last September.

Since Ruggerio Rizzitelli's match-winning double in April 1995, there has been little joy for Torino supporters. They've gone 15 derbies without a win. Toro's last goal was in 2001-02 – a barren run of nine fixtures. To say their fans crave derby success is an understatement.

Back in September the derby brimmed with controversy. Juve's winner was offside, while Carlos Tevez took to Twitter to show the effects of a Ciro Immobile challenge, which the latter took umbrage to. While Torino complained about the winner, Juve replied that they were the only side to create chances in the game.

Going into 2013-14's second showdown, there was reason for Toro optimism. Led by a solid defence, industrious midfield and dynamic attack, Torino have charged up the Serie A ladder. Their front pairing of Immobile and Alessio Cerci has rekindled memories of iconic 1970s strikers Paolino Pulici and Francesco Graziani – a pair who helped Toro to their last Scudetto in 1975-76.

Immobile and Cerci had netted 24 goals between them – one more than Tevez and Fernando Llorente. Cerci, reborn under Giampiero Ventura as a free-roaming forward, looks set to go to the World Cup. Immobile - co-owned between the two clubs - may yet join him. No striker has scored more than his 13 goals from open play this term.

Last week, Torino recovered from a goal down to blitz the equally impressive Verona. Immobile, Cerci and Omar El Kaddouri were on target in a devastating 12-minute spell. While the latter says Torino simply want to avoid relegation, Ventura notes the growth in the squad.

Juventus had European commitments to contend with, downing Trabzonspor in the first leg of the Europa League Round of 32 on Thursday. This came after a win over Chievo.

"We know that the task will not be simple, they are strong, both in their individuals and as a collective," said Granata defender Emiliano Moretti on Friday. "But so are we, from July until now, we have been prepared to fight for the team. We will leave the field without regrets, as has been the way throughout the year."

The oldest derby in Italy – first played in 1907 – was centre stage at its newest venue, the Juventus Stadium crowd electric. No city had claimed as many points as Turin in the opening 24 rounds – 99 points – highlighting the pair's strength this term.

The Granata had the better of the early chances, including an El Kaddouri lob and Jasmin Kurtic's snapshot. Then, Kwadwo Asamoah found Tevez and the Argentine spun and shot in one swift motion, his drive beating Daniele Padelli at the near post.

In the latter stages Torino dominated possession as Juve sat back to cull their counter-attacking strength. With 10 minutes remaining the major talking point arrived. El Kaddouri fell under contact from Andrea Pirlo. The referee waved play on. In real time it looked a dive, but replays showed contact. Had El Kaddouri not taken an extra step he may have been awarded a penalty. "Maybe I am not good at falling over," El Kaddouri lamented later, "but that cannot be a fault."

Nonetheless, the match ended with another Juventus victory and Mole clean sheet. Their unbeaten run extends to 16 matches. They are just one behind Torino's all-time record of 14 consecutive home wins to start a season, compiled during that last Scudetto success.

"In my view our game was tactically perfect, as we played with cool heads and hot hearts. We allowed Torino very few chances and tried to limit their counter-attacks, which are their main strengths," said Conte afterwards. "Immobile, Cerci and El Kaddouri can hurt any opponents and we ran the real risk of letting them through if we weren't 100 per cent concentrated."

His opposite number felt Toro deserved a chance to equalise, but is looking at the bigger picture. "Toro have improved and showed they were willing to come here and play football, not just defend. We probably deserved a point, but the derby was always going to be a stepping stone in our growth process," said Ventura.

Juve's city dominance continues. Who knows, if Torino can keep hold of their dynamic duo, the barren spell could be ended in 2014-15. The promise is there.

Elsewhere, Roma kept up the pressure by defeating Bologna 1-0, Radja Nainggolan grabbing the only goal of the game. Meanwhile, Napoli and Fiorentina were held to draws by Genoa and Parma respectively on Monday. Milan overcame Sampdoria in their best League performance to date under Clarence Seedorf, but Inter were discontented to only claim a home draw with struggling Cagliari.

Juve's Carlos Tevez calls the tune in the derby win over Torino

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Juventus	25	21	3	1	60	19	+41	66	W W D W D
2 Roma	24	17	6	1	49	11	+38	57	W W D W W
3 Napoli	25	15	6	4	50	28	+22	51	D W W L D
4 Fiorentina	25	13	6	6	45	28	+17	45	D L W L D
5 Internazionale	25	10	10	5	43	29	+14	40	D W W L D
6 Hellas Verona	25	12	3	10	43	42	+1	39	W L D W L
7 Parma	24	9	10	5	38	29	+9	37	D W D W W
8 Torino	25	9	9	7	39	32	+7	36	L W L D W
9 Milan	25	9	8	8	39	35	+4	35	W W L D W
10 Lazio	25	9	8	8	33	34	-1	35	W L D W D
11 Genoa	25	8	8	9	28	32	-4	32	D D W L D
12 Udinese	25	8	4	13	29	36	-7	28	D D W W L
13 Sampdoria	25	7	7	11	27	37	-10	28	L L W W D
14 Atalanta	25	8	4	13	25	37	-12	28	D L L W L
15 Cagliari	25	5	10	10	23	35	-12	25	D L L W L
16 Chievo	25	5	6	14	19	35	-16	21	W L L L D
17 Bologna	25	4	9	12	22	41	-19	21	L L W L D
18 Livorno	25	5	5	15	26	45	-19	20	L W L D W
19 Catania	25	4	7	14	19	43	-24	19	L W D D D
20 Sassuolo	25	4	5	16	25	54	-29	17	L L L L L

Latest Results	Next Match
Bologna 0 - 1 Roma	Roma v Inter
Livorno 2 - 3 Verona	Cagliari v Udinese
Udinese 1 - 1 Atalanta	Verona v Bologna
Inter 1 - 1 Cagliari	Genoa v Catania
Chievo 2 - 0 Catania	Atalanta v Chievo
Sampdoria 0 - 2 Milan	Sassuolo v Parma
Juventus 1 - 0 Torino	Torino v Sampdoria
Lazio 3 - 2 Sassuolo	Livorno v Napoli
Parma 2 - 2 Fiorentina	Milan v Juventus
Napoli 1 - 1 Genoa	Fiorentina v Lazio

One To Watch This Weekend...

It looks set to be a huge round which may shape the Scudetto race. Milan entertain leaders Juventus, while Roma meet Inter. Meanwhile, fourth-placed Fiorentina host a rejuvenated Lazio.

Spanish La Liga

Pepe Lopez

Advantage Real As Barca and Atleti Slump After UCL

Real Madrid have completed a remarkable turn-around in the Spanish La Liga. After losing away to Barcelona 1-2 on the 26th of October, Real Madrid remained 6 points behind their Spanish league rival all through-out November.

However, Barcelona suffered a patch of poor form over the Christmas period when their star forward Leo Messi suffered a hamstring injury. In the past 3 months, Real Madrid have found form under new Italian Coach Carlo Ancelotti and now sit 3 points clear at the top of the La Liga Standings with 63 points. Both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have 60 points, with 13 games remaining this season.

However, all 3 leading Spanish clubs have had their turn at leading the standings, and just as soon as 1 team has threatened to open up a gap at the top, the slightest bit of complacency has been capitalised upon by the nearest challengers. Both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid last week participated in tough away Champions League fixtures. Barcelona won away to England's Manchester City, whilst Atletico won away to AC Milan. Both Barcelona and Atletico played away fixtures in La Liga a couple of days later in La Liga and both Barcelona and Atletico were on the receiving end of 3 goals. Barcelona lost 3-1 to Real Sociedad of San Sebastian in the Basque Region, whilst Atleti lost 3-0 away to Osasuna of Pamplona also in the Basque Region.

Barca Coach Gerardo Martino had this to say post-match;

"My reading of the game wasn't up to what the match demanded. Perhaps delaying the change (substitutions) was a mistake, but the two goals came close together."

Atleti Coach Diego Simeone had this say post-match;

"When a team are better than you, as Osasuna were, you have to congratulate them. We did better in the second half."

Whilst Gerardo and Diego were brief and to the point, a much different Real Madrid Coach Carlo Ancelotti was much more relaxed and had plenty to say post-match (after a 3-0 win against lowly Elche);

"I am satisfied because we have shown solidarity, we didn't give anything away at the back. The overall play could have been better, but at this stage of the season we have to be clinical, and that's how we played. I am very happy".

"In this type of game, against a very compact opponent, the option of using Modric to create more one-on-one chances would have given us more goal-scoring opportunities. But Illarra played very well, he looked confident and played naturally. I am very happy for him. Before we play Schalke we'll have to see how Marcelo and Coentrão are. We will play the strongest possible team. Now all the matches are extremely important. It might be a case of whoever doesn't play on Wednesday will play on Sunday".

"Bale had a game of contrasts: before scoring that wonderful goal he was low on confidence, but was like a different player afterwards. That goal will help boost his confidence. Bale played put in an adequate performance before the goal and was fantastic after scoring it".

This week it will be Real Madrid's turn to balance the demands of the Champions League and the domestic Spanish League, as they travel to play Germany's Schalke, but then only have 3 days to recover before playing away to their local La Liga rivals Atletico Madrid, in what could be Real Madrid's most important 4 days of football of their 2013-14 season so far.

Gareth Bale scored with a spectacular 30-yard strike as Real Madrid defeated Elche to move three points clear at the top

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Real Madrid	25	20	3	2	71	24	+47	63	W W W D W
2 Barcelona	25	19	3	3	70	20	+50	60	L W W L W
3 Atlético Madrid	25	19	3	3	59	19	+40	60	L W L W W
4 Athletic Club	25	14	5	6	45	30	+15	47	W L D D W
5 Villarreal	25	13	4	8	46	30	+16	43	W L L W L
6 Real Sociedad	25	12	7	6	46	35	+11	43	W W D L W
7 Sevilla	25	9	8	8	43	41	+2	35	W D L L L
8 Valencia	25	10	5	10	38	36	+2	35	W D W W D
9 Levante	25	8	9	8	24	31	-7	33	D W D D W
10 Espanyol	25	9	5	11	29	32	-3	32	L W W L D
11 Celta de Vigo	25	8	6	11	32	36	-4	30	D W D W W
12 Osasuna	25	8	5	12	24	37	-13	29	W D W L L
13 Granada	25	8	3	14	22	32	-10	27	L W L L L
14 Elche	25	6	8	11	22	37	-15	26	L D D W L
15 Getafe	25	7	5	13	23	40	-17	26	D L L D L
16 Almería	25	7	5	13	24	42	-18	26	D L W L W
17 Málaga	25	6	7	12	23	34	-11	25	D L L W L
18 Real Valladolid	25	4	10	11	27	43	-16	22	D L D D W
19 Rayo Vallecano	25	6	2	17	25	59	-34	20	L L W D L
20 Real Betis	25	3	5	17	20	55	-35	14	L L L W L

Latest Results	Next Match
Real Valladolid 1 - 1 Levante	Athletic Club v Granada
Real Madrid 3 - 0 Elche	Málaga v Real Valladolid
Celta de Vigo 1 - 1 Getafe	Levante v Osasuna
Real Sociedad 3 - 1 Barcelona	Getafe v Espanyol
Almería 0 - 0 Málaga	Elche v Celta de Vigo
Rayo Vallecano 0 - 1 Sevilla	Villarreal v Real Betis
Real Betis 0 - 2 Ath Club	Atlético Madrid v Real Madrid
Valencia 2 - 1 Granada	Sevilla v Real Sociedad
Osasuna 3 - 0 Atlético Madrid	Barcelona v Almería
Espanyol 1 - 2 Villarreal	Rayo Vallecano v Valencia

One To Watch This Weekend...

Reigning La Liga Champions Barcelona will travel to the Basque Country to tackle Real Sociedad, Fox Sports 2 will broadcast this match Live Sunday February 23, 2014, 6am AEST.

La Liga challengers Atletico Madrid will also travel to the Basque Country to play against Osasuna, Fox Sports 1 will broadcast this match Live Monday February 24, 2014, 7am AEST.

CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	23	16	5	2	43	17	+26	53	D W W W W
2 Hajduk Split	23	13	8	2	41	20	+21	47	W W W D D
3 Rijeka	23	11	9	3	40	21	+19	42	D W L W D
4 Lokomotiva Zagreb	23	12	3	8	37	32	+5	39	L W W L D
5 Split	23	9	7	7	26	22	+4	34	W L L L D
6 Istra 1961	23	9	5	9	34	34	+0	32	W L W L W
7 Zadar	23	6	5	12	20	37	-17	23	L W W L D
8 Slaven Koprivnica	23	3	9	11	25	35	-10	18	L L L D D
9 Osijek	23	3	6	14	19	46	-27	15	L W L D L
10 Hrvatski Drago…	23	1	7	15	17	38	-21	10	L L L D L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	27	23	3	1	63	14	+49	72	L W W W W
2 Aberdeen	27	16	3	8	39	26	+13	51	W L W D L
3 Motherwell	26	15	2	9	39	39	+0	47	L L W D L
4 Inverness CT	25	13	5	7	33	21	+12	44	W W D L W
5 Dundee United	26	11	8	7	46	31	+15	41	W W D L D
6 St. Johnstone	26	10	5	11	34	30	+4	35	W L L W D
7 Hibernian	26	8	8	10	24	29	-5	32	D W L L L
8 Kilmarnock	27	7	6	14	33	45	-12	27	D L D L W
9 Partick Thistle	27	5	10	12	28	44	-16	25	W L D D L
10 Ross County	27	7	4	16	32	49	-17	25	L W L D L
11 St. Mirren	27	6	6	15	25	44	-19	24	L L L L D
12 Heart of Midlo…	27	5	6	16	22	46	-24	6	L D W W D

SERBIA Super Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Crvena Zvezda	16	11	2	3	32	16	+16	35	W W W W W
2 Partizan	16	10	4	2	28	12	+16	34	D W W W W
3 Jagodina	16	8	3	5	20	14	+6	27	L W W W L
4 Radnički Niš	16	6	7	3	16	10	+6	25	D L W L W
5 Vojvodina	16	6	7	3	21	18	+3	25	D L W L D
6 Čukarički	16	7	4	5	16	13	+3	25	W L L D W
7 Novi Pazar	16	7	4	5	18	16	+2	25	D W L D W
8 Spartak Subotica	15	6	3	6	12	19	-7	21	D L W L W
9 Napredak	16	5	5	6	21	19	+2	20	W D L W L
10 Voždovac	16	5	4	7	14	17	-3	19	W L W L L
11 Radnički Kragu…	16	4	5	7	15	21	-6	17	D L W D L
12 OFK Beograd	16	5	2	9	17	25	-8	17	L D L L W
13 Sloboda Užice	15	4	4	7	13	19	-6	16	W L L W L
14 Donji Srem	16	3	6	7	16	20	-4	15	D D W W L
15 Javor Ivanjica	16	3	6	7	15	21	-6	15	L D L D D
16 Rad Beograd	16	3	2	11	6	20	-14	11	L D L L L

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	22	20	2	0	61	9	+52	62	W W W W W
2 Bayer Leverkusen	22	14	1	7	39	25	+14	43	L L W W L
3 Borussia Dortmund	22	13	3	6	51	27	+24	42	L W W W D
4 Schalke 04	22	12	5	5	41	30	+11	41	D W W W W
5 Wolfsburg	22	12	3	7	38	26	+12	39	W W W L L
6 Borussia M'gla…	22	10	5	7	39	28	+11	35	D D L L L
7 Hertha BSC	22	10	4	8	34	27	+7	34	W L W L L
8 Augsburg	22	10	4	8	34	32	+2	34	W L W W D
9 Mainz 05	22	10	4	8	31	35	-4	34	D W L W W
10 Hoffenheim	22	6	8	8	46	46	+0	26	D W D W L
11 Hannover 96	22	7	3	12	29	41	-12	24	L L L W W
12 Nürnberg	22	4	11	7	27	37	-10	23	W W L W W
13 Eintracht Fran…	22	5	7	10	24	38	-14	22	D L W L W
14 Werder Bremen	22	5	7	10	25	46	-21	22	D D L L D
15 Stuttgart	22	5	4	13	35	47	-12	19	L L L L L
16 Hamburger SV	22	5	4	13	38	51	-13	19	W L L L L
17 Freiburg	22	4	6	12	22	44	-22	18	L L D L W
18 Eintracht Brau…	22	4	3	15	16	41	-25	15	L W L L D

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Ajax	25	16	6	3	54	20	+34	54	W W D W D
2 Twente	25	13	9	3	56	26	+30	48	D W D L W
3 Vitesse	25	13	7	5	49	32	+17	46	W L D L D
4 Feyenoord	25	13	6	6	54	35	+19	45	D D W W D
5 PSV	25	12	5	8	45	32	+13	41	W W W W L
6 Heerenveen	25	10	7	8	51	43	+8	37	D L W L W
7 AZ	25	10	4	11	38	41	-3	34	L D L W W
8 PEC Zwolle	25	8	9	8	36	34	+2	33	D L D W W
9 Groningen	25	8	8	9	41	42	-1	32	L W D L L
10 NAC Breda	25	8	7	10	36	40	-4	31	D D W D W
11 Heracles	25	8	6	11	35	41	-6	30	D L D W L
12 Cambuur	25	8	5	12	28	34	-6	29	W W D L L
13 Utrecht	25	8	5	12	34	49	-15	29	W D L L D
14 Go Ahead Eagles	25	7	7	11	36	52	-16	28	L L W D D
15 ADO Den Haag	25	8	3	14	29	53	-24	27	W W D L L
16 RKC Waalwijk	25	6	8	11	38	47	-9	26	L L W D W
17 NEC	25	5	9	11	39	61	-22	24	L W L D D
18 Roda JC	25	5	7	13	35	52	-17	22	L L L L L

TURKEY Süper Lig

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Fenerbahçe	22	15	3	4	49	26	+23	48	D W L L W
2 Galatasaray	22	12	8	2	40	19	+21	44	W D W W D
3 Beşiktaş	22	12	6	4	39	22	+17	42	L W W W W
4 Sivasspor	22	11	3	8	40	34	+6	36	L D W L W
5 Karabükspor	22	9	7	6	25	23	+2	34	L D W W D
6 Kasımpaşa	22	9	6	7	38	30	+8	33	W L L L D
7 Trabzonspor	22	9	6	7	32	29	+3	33	W D L D D
8 Eskişehirspor	22	9	5	8	27	24	+3	32	D D L W L
9 Akhisar Beledi…	22	9	5	8	30	29	+1	32	D L W W L
10 Bursaspor	22	8	7	7	25	28	-3	31	W L D L W
11 Konyaspor	22	8	3	11	33	34	-1	27	D L W W L
12 Gaziantepspor	22	7	5	10	26	39	-13	26	D L L W D
13 Gençlerbirliği	22	7	4	11	25	29	-4	25	D L L L W
14 Antalyaspor	22	5	9	8	26	28	-2	24	D D D L W
15 Elazığspor	22	7	2	13	29	46	-17	23	D W W L W
16 Rizespor	22	5	6	11	25	32	-7	21	L W D D L
17 Kayseri Erciye…	22	5	4	13	20	36	-16	19	W W D L L
18 Kayserispor	22	3	7	12	15	36	-21	16	L W L D L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leicester City	32	22	5	5	59	32	+27	71	W D D W W
2 Burnley	32	17	12	3	50	26	+24	63	W D W W D
3 Derby County	32	18	7	7	60	40	+20	61	W W W D W
4 Queens Park Ra…	31	16	8	7	37	25	+12	56	L L L D W
5 Nottingham Forest	32	14	13	5	53	35	+18	55	L D W D W
6 Reading	32	14	8	10	50	37	+13	50	L W L W W
7 Wigan Athletic	31	14	7	10	37	29	+8	49	W W W L W
8 Brighton & Hov…	31	12	10	9	33	27	+6	46	L W W L D
9 Blackburn Rovers	31	12	10	9	38	35	+3	46	W D W D D
10 Ipswich Town	32	11	12	9	43	37	+6	45	L D D W D
11 Leeds United	31	12	7	12	43	39	+4	43	D L W W D
12 Watford	32	10	12	10	44	39	+5	42	L D W W D
13 Middlesbrough	32	9	13	10	41	36	+5	40	D L D D D
14 Huddersfield Town	32	11	7	14	40	44	-4	40	L W L W L
15 Sheffield Wedn…	31	8	12	11	38	38	+0	36	W L L W W
16 Birmingham City	32	9	9	14	39	41	-2	36	W L L W D
17 AFC Bournemouth	31	9	9	13	37	51	-14	36	L D D L W
18 Blackpool	32	8	11	13	29	44	-15	35	L D D L L
19 Bolton Wanderers	32	7	12	13	37	49	-12	33	W D L D L
20 Doncaster Rovers	32	7	9	16	28	48	-20	30	L D L D W
21 Millwall	32	6	10	16	31	60	-29	28	L D D L L
22 Charlton Athletic	29	6	9	14	24	38	-14	27	W L L L L
23 Barnsley	31	5	11	15	30	51	-21	26	W L D D L
24 Yeovil Town	31	6	7	18	27	47	-20	25	W D D L L

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leyton Orient	33	20	7	6	66	32	+34	67	W W D L L
2 Wolverhampton …	31	20	7	4	54	20	+34	67	W W W W W
3 Brentford	31	20	6	5	54	31	+23	66	L W D W W
4 Preston North End	33	16	13	4	46	33	+13	61	D W D D W
5 Rotherham United	32	16	10	6	58	43	+15	58	D W W W W
6 Peterborough U…	31	16	4	11	51	41	+10	52	W D W L W
7 Walsall	32	12	11	9	37	31	+6	47	L D L D W
8 Swindon Town	33	13	7	13	50	44	+6	46	D L D W L
9 Milton Keynes Dons	33	13	7	13	48	45	+3	46	W L D W W
10 Port Vale	32	13	4	15	44	49	-5	43	L L D W L
11 Bradford City	32	9	14	9	43	38	+5	41	W W L D L
12 Sheffield United	31	10	8	13	33	38	-5	38	W W W W L
13 Gillingham	33	11	5	17	42	55	-13	38	L L W L W
14 Coventry City	31	13	8	10	59	56	+3	37	L L L W L
15 Oldham Athletic	33	10	7	16	37	46	-9	37	L W L D W
16 Carlisle United	32	10	6	16	37	54	-17	36	L W W L L
17 Colchester United	30	8	11	11	36	39	-3	35	L L D L W
18 Crawley Town	27	8	11	8	32	36	-4	35	D W D D W
19 Tranmere Rovers	32	9	8	15	38	55	-17	35	W D L W L
20 Crewe Alexandra	33	9	7	17	37	62	-25	34	L W L D W
21 Bristol City	33	6	14	13	47	55	-8	32	L D W D L
22 Shrewsbury Town	32	7	10	15	31	43	-12	31	W D L D L
23 Notts County	33	9	3	21	42	55	-13	30	L L W L L
24 Stevenage	31	8	4	19	29	50	-21	28	W L L L W

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Chesterfield	33	17	10	6	55	30	+25	61	W L W D W
2 Scunthorpe United	33	15	14	4	51	32	+19	59	D W W D D
3 Rochdale	32	17	6	9	50	36	+14	57	W D W W L
4 Oxford United	33	14	13	6	46	28	+18	55	D L W D D
5 Burton Albion	33	14	11	8	36	33	+3	53	D L D D W
6 Fleetwood Town	32	16	4	12	48	39	+9	52	L L W D L
7 Southend United	33	13	10	10	40	31	+9	49	L D D L L
8 Plymouth Argyle	32	12	9	11	33	36	-3	45	W W L W D
9 Newport County	30	11	9	10	39	38	+1	42	L L W L D
10 Hartlepool United	33	11	9	13	36	38	-2	42	L D W W D
11 AFC Wimbledon	33	11	8	14	34	39	-5	41	W L L L L
12 York City	33	9	13	11	38	37	+1	40	D W D W L
13 Dagenham & Red	32	10	10	12	39	41	-2	40	L D L W D
14 Morecambe	32	10	10	12	36	42	-6	40	D D L L D
15 Bury	31	9	12	10	37	36	+1	39	W W D D W
16 Exeter City	33	10	9	14	38	43	-5	39	L L D W D
17 Cheltenham Town	32	9	12	11	37	44	-7	39	L W L D D
18 Portsmouth	33	9	12	12	37	48	-11	39	W L W D L
19 Bristol Rovers	32	9	11	12	31	33	-2	38	D W W D L
20 Mansfield Town	33	9	11	13	34	47	-13	38	L W L W D
21 Wycombe Wandere	32	9	10	13	35	39	-4	37	W W D D L
22 Accrington Stanley	32	9	10	13	35	42	-7	37	L W D L D
23 Northampton Town	32	8	8	16	27	43	-16	32	W W L W L
24 Torquay United	32	7	9	16	31	48	-17	30	D L L L W

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	26	24	2	0	78	9	+69	74	W W W W W
2 PAOK	26	17	3	6	52	25	+27	54	W L L W L
3 Atromitos	26	15	7	4	40	18	+22	52	W L W W W
4 Panathinaikos	26	14	5	7	39	22	+17	47	D W W L D
5 Asteras Tripolis	26	12	9	5	37	25	+12	45	L W L W W
6 Panaitolikos	26	9	7	10	27	25	+2	34	L W L D L
7 Panthrakikos	26	9	7	10	31	38	-7	34	L L L W D
8 OFI	26	8	9	9	21	32	-11	33	L W W L D
9 Kalloni	26	10	2	14	26	43	-17	32	W L W L L
10 PAS Giannina	26	10	2	14	27	36	-9	32	L L W W W
11 Ergotelis	26	7	10	9	26	29	-3	31	D L W W W
12 Levadiakos	26	9	3	14	29	44	-15	30	W W L D L
13 Panionios	26	8	6	12	23	30	-7	30	W W L L L
14 Xanthi	26	8	5	13	29	41	-12	29	L W L L D
15 Platanias	26	6	7	13	24	38	-14	25	W L L L W
16 Apollon Smirnis	26	6	7	13	31	41	-10	25	L L W D L
17 Veria	26	5	8	13	20	44	-24	23	W D L L D
18 Aris	26	3	9	14	21	41	-20	18	L D W D D

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	26	18	7	1	62	18	+44	61	W W D W D
2 Monaco	26	16	8	2	44	19	+25	56	W W D D W
3 Lille	26	13	7	6	28	16	+12	46	D D W L D
4 Saint-Étienne	26	13	6	7	36	23	+13	45	W D D W L
5 Olympique Mars…	26	12	7	7	38	27	+11	43	W D W D W
6 Olympique Lyonnais	26	11	8	7	40	31	+9	41	D W W L W
7 Reims	26	10	9	7	32	32	+0	39	L W W L D
8 Bordeaux	25	10	7	8	31	27	+4	37	W L L W L
9 Bastia	26	10	6	10	30	37	-7	36	L L W L W
10 Toulouse	26	8	9	9	29	36	-7	33	L W L D D
11 Montpellier	26	6	14	6	33	31	+2	32	W D D W W
12 Lorient	25	9	5	11	32	34	-2	32	L L D D W
13 Rennes	26	7	10	9	31	30	+1	31	W D L W D
14 Nantes	26	9	4	13	23	28	-5	31	L D L L D
15 Nice	26	9	4	13	23	31	-8	31	L D L W L
16 Guingamp	26	7	8	11	24	28	-4	29	W L L L D
17 Evian TG	26	5	9	12	25	43	-18	24	L D D D L
18 Valenciennes	26	5	7	14	26	42	-16	22	D L W L L
19 Sochaux	26	4	7	15	20	48	-28	19	D W L W D
20 Ajaccio	26	2	8	16	20	46	-26	14	L L W D D

Portugal Premeira Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Benfica	20	15	4	1	37	13	+24	49	W W W D W
2 Sporting CP	20	13	5	2	38	13	+25	44	W W L D W
3 Porto	20	13	3	4	37	14	+23	42	L W W L W
4 Estoril	20	10	6	4	30	20	+10	36	W W W D D
5 Nacional	20	8	9	3	28	19	+9	33	D D W W D
6 Vitória Guimarães	20	9	2	9	21	19	+2	29	L W L L W
7 Sporting Braga	20	8	3	9	29	25	+4	27	D L W L D
8 Marítimo	20	7	6	7	29	31	-2	27	W W D W L
9 Vitória Setúbal	20	7	4	9	26	31	-5	25	W L W W L
10 Académica	20	6	6	8	12	21	-9	24	D D L D W
11 Rio Ave	20	6	4	10	15	22	-7	22	L L D L W
12 Arouca	20	4	7	9	19	26	-7	19	D D D D L
13 Gil Vicente	20	5	4	11	17	30	-13	19	L L L D L
14 Belenenses	20	3	7	10	11	24	-13	16	L D L W L
15 Olhanense	20	4	4	12	14	31	-17	16	W L D L L
16 Paços de Ferreira	20	3	4	13	16	40	-24	13	L L L W D

European Results

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Middlesbrough 0 - 0 Leeds United
Burnley 3 - 1 Nottingham Forest
Bolton Wanderers 2 - 0 Watford
Derby County 1 - 0 AFC Bournemouth
Leicester City 3 - 0 Ipswich Town
Brighton & Hov… 1 - 2 Wigan Athleticfo
Reading 0 - 1 Blackburn Rovers
Yeovil Town 1 - 0 Doncaster Rovers
Barnsley 1 - 0 Millwall
Charlton Athletic 1 - 0 Queens Park Ra…
Huddersfield Town 0 - 2 Sheffield Wedn…
Blackpool 1 - 2 Birmingham City
Blackburn Rovers PSTP Brighton & Hov…

ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE

Walsall 1 - 2 Crawley Town
Notts County 2 - 3 Shrewsbury Town
Stevenage 0 - 1 Peterborough U…
Bradford City 1 - 0 Milton Keynes Dons
Oldham Athletic 1 - 0 Gillingham
Colchester United 1 - 2 Preston North End
Carlisle United 1 - 2 Rotherham United
Leyton Orient 2 - 0 Swindon Town
Sheffield United 3 - 0 Bristol City
Brentford 0 - 3 Wolverhampton …
Tranmere Rovers 3 - 1 Coventry City
Port Vale 1 - 3 Crewe Alexandra

Mid Week

Oldham Athletic 1 - 2 Milton Keynes Dons
Swindon Town 1 - 1 Crawley Town
Preston North End 3 - 3 Rotherham United
Colchester United 0 - 1 Sheffield United
Stevenage 1 - 0 Crewe Alexandra

ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO

Bristol Rovers 2 - 0 Burton Albion
Scunthorpe United 5 - 1 Portsmouth
Northampton Town 2 - 0 Hartlepool United
Dagenham & Red… 1 - 2 Plymouth Argyle
Morecambe 1 - 1 Oxford United
Exeter City 0 - 1 Rochdale
Torquay United 0 - 1 Accrington Stanley
Newport County 0 - 1 Cheltenham Town
York City 0 - 0 Southend United
Wycombe Wanderers 1 - 0 Chesterfield
Mansfield Town 1 - 0 Fleetwood Town
AFC Wimbledon 0 - 1 Bury

Mid week

Newport County 1 - 2 AFC Wimbledon
Exeter City 0 - 1 Wycombe Wanderers
Fleetwood Town 0 - 4 Plymouth Argyle
Cheltenham Town 1 - 4 Chesterfield
Portsmouth 1 - 0 Accrington Stanley
Scunthorpe United 1 - 1 Bristol Rovers
Northampton Town 2 - 1 Southend United
Torquay United 1 - 1 Burton Albion
Mansfield Town 1 - 4 Bury

CROATIA

Hrvatski Drago… 0 - 1 Dinamo Zagreb
Slaven Koprivnica 0 - 2 Istra 1961
Lokomotiva Zagreb 0 - 2 Hajduk Split
Split 3 - 1 Zadar
Rijeka 1 - 0 Osijek

FRANCE

Monaco 3 - 2 Reims
Olympique Mars… 1 - 0 Lorient
Bastia 0 - 2 Saint-Étienne
Bordeaux 2 - 1 Evian TG
Guingamp 1 - 0 Nice
Montpellier 2 - 0 Ajaccio
Valenciennes 2 - 2 Sochaux
Toulouse 2 - 4 PSG
Nantes 0 - 3 Rennes
Lille 0 - 0 Olympique Lyonnais

GERMANY

Schalke 04 0 - 0 Mainz 05
Borussia M'gla… 2 - 2 Hoffenheim
Stuttgart 1 - 2 Hertha BSC
Nürnberg 2 - 1 Eintracht Brau…
Freiburg 2 - 4 Augsburg
Hamburger SV 3 - 0 Borussia Dortmund
Wolfsburg 3 - 1 Bayer Leverkusen
Eintracht Fran… 0 - 0 Werder Bremen
Hannover 96 0 - 4 Bayern München

GREECE

Levadiakos 3 - 1 Asteras Tripolis
Apollon Smirnis 1 - 2 Panionios
OFI 0 - 4 Olympiakos Piraeus
Panathinaikos 1 - 1 Ergotelis
Atromitos 2 - 0 Xanthi
Platanias 2 - 1 Aris
PAS Giannina 0 - 1 Veria
PAOK 3 - 0 Panthrakikos
Kalloni 3 - 1 Panaitolikos

HOLLAND

ADO Den Haag 3 - 2 Go Ahead Eagles
Heerenveen 0 - 0 NAC Breda
Cambuur 1 - 0 Roda JC
PEC Zwolle 1 - 1 Heracles
NEC 0 - 2 PSV
Utrecht 1 - 0 Groningen
Ajax 4 - 0 AZ
Vitesse 3 - 1 RKC Waalwijk
Twente 2 - 2 Feyenoord

PORTUGAL

Académica 0 - 0 Nacional
Sporting Braga 2 - 2 Arouca
Rio Ave 1 - 2 Sporting CP
Olhanense 2 - 1 Gil Vicente
Vitória Setúbal 4 - 0 Paços de Ferreira
Marítimo 2 - 0 Belenenses
Porto 0 - 1 Estoril
Benfica 1 - 0 Vitória Guimarães

SCOTLAND

Ross County 0 - 3 Inverness CT
Aberdeen 2 - 1 Celtic
St. Johnstone 3 - 0 Motherwell

SERBIA

Novi Pazar 0 - 0 Partizan
Voždovac 1 - 0 OFK Beograd
Donji Srem 1 - 1 Vojvodina
Čukarički 2 - 0 Rad Beograd
Napredak 2 - 1 Jagodina
Crvena Zvezda 2 - 1 Javor Ivanjica
Radnički Kragu… 0 - 0 Radnički Niš

TURKEY

Bursaspor 2 - 0 Rizespor
Gaziantepspor 1 - 1 Akhisar Beledi…
Kayseri Erciye… 2 - 1 Karabükspor
Galatasaray 1 - 0 Beşiktaş
Gençlerbirliği 2 - 2 Konyaspor
Kasımpaşa 6 - 2 Sivasspor
Antalyaspor 0 - 0 Eskişehirspor
Trabzonspor 2 - 1 Kayserispor
Elazığspor 1 - 1 Fenerbahçe

One Game At A Time

France

Bordeaux v Lorient
Evian TG v Nantes
Saint-Étienne v Monaco
Lorient v Bastia
Nice v Toulouse
Reims v Valenciennes
Rennes v Guingamp
Sochaux v Bordeaux
Ajaccio v Lille
Olympique Lyonnais v Montpellier
PSG v Olympique Mars…

Germany

Hertha BSC v Freiburg
Borussia Dortmund v Nürnberg
Bayer Leverkusen v Mainz 05
Werder Bremen v Hamburger SV
Augsburg v Hannover 96
Eintracht Brau… v Borussia M'gla…
Bayern München v Schalke 04
Hoffenheim v Wolfsburg
Eintracht Fran… v Stuttgart

Croatia

Rijeka v Dinamo Zagreb
Zadar v Hrvatski Drago…
Osijek v Istra 1961
Rijeka v Split
Dinamo Zagreb v Lokomotiva Zagreb
Hajduk Split v Slaven Koprivnica

Serbia

Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice
Napredak v Radnički Kragu…
Jagodina v Crvena Zvezda
Javor Ivanjica v Donji Srem
Vojvodina v Voždovac
OFK Beograd v Spartak Subotica
Sloboda Užice v Čukarički
Rad Beograd v Novi Pazar
Partizan v Radnički Niš

English Championship

Queens Park Ra… v Leeds United
Reading v Yeovil Town
Watford v Blackpool
Nottingham Forest v Wigan Athletic
Burnley v Derby County
Millwall v Brighton & Hov…
AFC Bournemouth v Doncaster Rovers
Huddersfield Town v Barnsley
Bolton Wanderers v Blackburn Rovers
Sheffield Wedn… v Middlesbrough
Ipswich Town v Birmingham City
Leicester City v Charlton Athletic

English League One

Crawley Town v Peterborough U…
Preston North End v Walsall
Bradford City v Stevenage
Tranmere Rovers v Oldham Athletic
Crewe Alexandra v Swindon Town
Wolverhampton …v Port Vale
Bristol City v Gillingham
Milton Keynes Dons v Sheffield United
Carlisle United v Brentford
Leyton Orient v Colchester United
Rotherham United v Notts County
Coventry City v Shrewsbury Town

English League Two

Hartlepool United v Torquay United
Fleetwood Town v AFC Wimbledon
Newport County v Scunthorpe United
Rochdale v Oxford United
York City v Exeter City
Dagenham & Red… v Mansfield Town
Northampton Town v Bristol Rovers
Southend United v Wycombe Wanderers
Plymouth Argyle v Morecambe
Cheltenham Town v Bury
Burton Albion v Accrington Stanley
Chesterfield v Portsmouth

Scotland

Hibernian v Dundee United
Aberdeen v St. Johnstone
Celtic v Inverness CT
Motherwell v Heart of Midlo…
Ross County v Partick Thistle
St. Mirren v Kilmarnock

Greece

Xanthi v Levadiakos
Veria v Apollon Smirnis
Aris v OFI
Panaitolikos v Atromitos
Asteras Tripolis v Panthrakikos
Ergotelis v PAOK
Panionios v Kalloni
Olympiakos Piraeus v Panathinaikos
Platanias v PAS Giannina

Turkey

Akhisar Beledi… v Bursaspor
Beşiktaş v Antalyaspor
Karabükspor v Gaziantepspor
Eskişehirspor v Kasımpaşa
Fenerbahçe v Gençlerbirliği
Kayserispor v Kayseri Erciye…
Sivasspor v Elazığspor
Konyaspor v Trabzonspor
Rizespor v Galatasaray

Holland

Heracles v Heerenveen
PEC Zwolle v NEC
ADO Den Haag v NAC Breda
Go Ahead Eagles v PSV
Vitesse v Roda JC
Utrecht v Twente
Feyenoord v Ajax
Groningen v Cambuur
AZ v RKC Waalwijk

Portugal

Estoril v Olhanense
Sporting CP v Sporting Braga
Gil Vicente v Vitória Setúbal
Paços de Ferreira v Marítimo
Nacional v Rio Ave
Belenenses v Benfica
Vitória Guimarães v Porto
Arouca v Académica

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